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GROWERS VINE

FALL 2012

Port Elgin Pumpkinfest
October 5-6, 2013
www.pumpkinfest.org
info@pumpkinfest.org
1-800-387-3456

Brought to you by Port Elgin Pumpkinfest and the GVGO

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Phil Joynson

First off I'd like to congratulate all those GVGO growers that successfully brought personal best veggies to the weigh off. Secondly I'd like to congratulate those that just managed to survive a most trying year. Drought, heat, disease, plagues of insects, you name it and it seems to have hit the Ontario growers this past year. It certainly seems to have been one of those character building years. The growers that seemed to survive the best were the ones that diversified their gardens and grew different types of veggies. It seems there is always something that likes the weather no matter how extreme it gets.

There are big changes on the horizon for the club. Some good. Some not so good. I might as well get the bad news out of the way... as of January 1st membership costs will be increased \$5 across the board. This is the first club dues increase we've ever had but it's was inevitable that mailing costs would catch up to us

eventually. Get your membership dues in soon to avoid the price increase! On a better note, your club executive have decided to morph the old "Seed of the Year" contest into a new and better contest. This will be called the "Big Momma" contest. Gone are the restrictions on what seed you are to plant, the geographic restrictions, and up goes the prize money! Full rules are listed in this news letter but basically it comes down to... if it came in the GVGO seed package, you can grow it and it will be eligible for the Big Momma prizes. (Pat Watson will have an eligible donated seed list that we'll keep updated on the club web site. If you didn't get the donated seed you wanted in your seed package then you can trade for one or get one another way). As an added bonus, if your donated seed wins the contest you also get a cash prize. I know there will be issues with this contest as we did with the old "Seed of the Year" but it will be fairer to all GVGO members and hopefully more popular too. Also there is nothing set in stone. If issues do arise with the 2013 contest we can amend rules to make this work better in 2014. Hopefully this contest will increase seed donations and

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encourage GVGO members to grow their own seeds or the donated seeds of their friends.

It looks like a very busy new year coming for your GVGO executive. There are lots of changes to be addressed and hammered out. From club promotion, club web page info, better language as to club benefits, what the club will be offering for product distribution, club sponsorship, seminar location, new competitions etc. I must say the level of input that we've had from the volunteers on the executive has been overwhelming this fall. Gone are the days when the same three people set the agenda due to disinterest by the rest of the club. The "Big Momma" contest is just one example of this new ruling by committee. We must have had 100 emails mass mailed back and forth as we thrashed out a compromise. Nobody seems to have gotten 100% what they wanted but that seems to be how democracy works. Not perfect but better than any other system.

In closing I'd like to wish all the GVGO members a happy and safe holiday season. Even if Santa leaves coal in your stocking it can be crushed up or burned to make a great garden amendment!

P.S. Please note that I didn't write the "Top 10" list this issue. Sue Vincent wanted to do the list this time from the point of view of a long suffering pumpkin widow. I think she did

a great job and it's very funny. Thanks for the rest Sue!

**PORT ELGIN PUMPKINFEST
UPDATE
By Sally Hunt**

2012 was dubbed the "Season of Change" in Port Elgin as we held our weigh-offs in September this year (the first time in 26 years). The weather was beautiful and our crowds remained at 55,000 so the date change does not seem to have deterred our festival crowds in the least.

Besides the date there were other big changes too. Since I had stepped down as the overall Event Coordinator a replacement was hired but, unfortunately, did not work out. Have no worries though, the girls who have worked alongside me for many years (Heather Lorenz and Lacey Boyd) are stepping up to become Co-Coordinator for 2013 so the festival planning is in experienced hands. I, of course, will continue working in the background in an advisory capacity.

Joanne Robbins, our long time Weigh Director missed her first Pumpkinfest in over 15 years, as she instead travelled to British Columbia to witness the birth of her very first grandbaby. This left me to learn the ropes of the leaderboard and logistics of the weigh-off tent. It was a pleasure to spend the entire weekend in the tent. This was

new to me, and I thoroughly enjoyed spending so much time with all the growers I have come to know and consider friends, as well as the new faces I meet every year. Next year, we will have Joanne back and I'm not going anywhere so there will be lots of experience to ensure a smooth weigh-off.



Ariel View of the Car Show

2012 saw record numbers for the car show and from what I understand this added a little frustration for the growers as they had not previously experienced the traffic congestion on their way to the weigh-off area as they did this year. We will be working with the local police to ensure that traffic moves more freely in the future.

Anyways, enough about all that – now for the good stuff.

How excited we were this year to have our site record broken twice in one day! The previous record was held by Phil and Jane Hunt with their 1678 pounder. Third from-last to the scales, was a monster 1684 pound pumpkin entered by Chris Delaney.



The Delaney family with the 1684

The site record was officially broken and it remains the new Ontario record after the completion of the weigh-off season. Last to the scales was another monster grown by Jim and Kelsey Bryson of 1753#.



Jim & Kelsey Bryson with their 1753

Three years consecutively, the Bryson's now hold the title. Congratulations Jim and Kelsey!



March 8-10, 2013

Sunday's winner was a 1347 # grown by Jeff Warner of Englehart, Ontario.



Jeff Warner with his 1347

The distance Jeff drives to attend our GVGO events always astounds me and I had to feel a little sorry for him as he waited all day for his pumpkin to hit the scales. I'd bet he's not complaining too much though ☺

Terry Chappelle's entry won him the Novice Grower Award on Sunday afternoon



Terry Chappelle – Novice Grower 2012

and Bob and Elaine MacKenzie took home the Fred Wuerth Memorial Award for the largest Tri-County pumpkin (Bruce, Grey and Huron Counties).

The Howard Dill awards were won by Doris Wray on Saturday



Doris Wray and the 1152 Howard Dill Award Winner

and John Nieuwenhoff on Sunday



John Nieuwenhoff and Daughter receive Howard Dill Award from Nina McMeekin, Pumpkinfest Chair

and the Closest to the Hidden Weight awards went to Peter Burdon on Saturday and Dave McCallum on Sunday.



Dave McCallum poses in his Chair

In total, there were 153 vegetable entries in 2012. 54 pumpkins and squash were entered and 13 of these were over 1,000 pounds. In total our scales weighed 49,266.57 lbs, and our measuring tape measured 4,831.54" of vegetables. Congratulations to all our growers!!

News and prize structures for 2013 will be ready shortly but we can tell you to stock up on your Field Pumpkin seeds, because it will be the 2013 featured vegetable at Port Elgin Pumpkinfest!

As we wrap up the 2012 season, we are switching into high gear for Niagara seminar planning. We will be awarding the orange jacket to Ron Wallace for his 2009 pounder and he has already confirmed his "How I Grew" presentation. We hope to see you all in Niagara Falls and Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to everyone!

SOUTHERN ONTARIO NEWS

by Pat Watson

Well another growing season has wrapped up with a number of great accomplishments by various members of the GVGO. Chris Delaney grew a new Ontario record pumpkin weighing in at 1684.5lbs at Port Elgin. Jeff Warner kicked butt on Sunday in Port Elgin with a new personal best and Sunday weigh off record pumpkin

weighing 1347lbs. John Vincent is king of the cabbage this year weighing two monsters, first at Woodbridge weighing 99lbs and then at the Royal the largest one weighing 112.2lbs. Both new Canadian records! John Nieuwenhoff had a fantastic year with a new PB pumpkin weighing in at 1386lbs at the Erin Fall Fair. All of these accomplishments are incredible to me but the most amazing accomplishment in our neck of the woods this year has to be the success of Jim & Kelsey Bryson from Ormstown Quebec. Their consistent dominance in the pumpkin category over the last 3 years is truly amazing to me. I checked with Sally and nobody has ever won the Saturday weigh off in Port Elgin three consecutive years. To win this event once is a great accomplishment but three times in a row...WOW...congratulations Jim & Kelsey! I believe this high level of success and competition inspires other members to dig deep and take it to the next level. I couldn't help but to over hear Jim Bryson say "you had me worried for a while" as he shook Chris Delaney's hand in Port Elgin after the weigh off. Everyone knows Chris is hungry for the big win and I know he will be giving it his all again next season. I think it's fair to say our friends in Quebec have a target on their back, we all want to beat them but at the end of the day it is all in good fun and may the best pumpkin grower win. Jim & Kelsey

Bryson have definitely been the best pumpkin growers the last few years....congratulations!

Who would have thought the first one ton pumpkin was going to be grown this season! I definitely thought that level was still a few years away but Ron Wallace from Rhode Island proved us wrong with his massive entry at Topsfield weighing 2009lbs. Congratulations Ron and thanks for sending the GVGO a seed for the auction. I was fortunate enough to be the successful bidder for this seed and can't wait to plant it in the spring!

Here in the Southwest we saw Art Johnston & John Butler grow the #1 tomato weighing in at 5.50lbs. John Nieuwenhoff's 4.90lb monster came in #7 in the world according to the GPC site. Joel Jarvis grew a very respectable pumpkin (1464.5lbs) and squash (949lbs). Mike DeMars grew a nice squash weighing 699lbs and finished in the money for the first time at Port Elgin.

The Bluewater Growers and Throwers event held near Port Lambton had a new champ this year. Congratulations go out to Candy Caron of Port Lambton for the win with her 824.9lb beauty grown off the 786 DeMars seed.

The season in this area did see a lot of hot dry weather and I had my share of problems with the infamous Squash Vine Borer, a hungry squirrel, excessive heat and splits. I

split my first pumpkin this year at day 40 measuring 805lbs grown off the 1818 Bryson seed. Oh well, I'll be back next year having fun trying for a new personal best again.

John Butler and Art Johnston have decided to change things up a bit next year and have announced they will no longer be growing as a team. No reason was given for this change. They just want to try something different according to Art and John.

The membership seed packs are my job again this year. Anyone wishing to donate seeds should mail them to:

Pat Watson
PO Box 25
Komoka, Ontario N0L 1R0

This newsletter contains some very exciting news about the membership seed packs so don't delay. Donating seeds and growing seeds from the membership seed pack will make you eligible to win cash. Please send your seeds and help make our seed pack the best one ever. Remember pumpkin and squash weighing less than 800lbs are limited to 50 seeds per fruit. No restrictions on other seed types.

I will be posting more information about the seed sorting and envelope stuffing day sometime in December. All members are welcome to attend and help prepare the packs, please email me if you have any questions.

karenpat@sympatico.ca

Lonnie Bourne is still our fish and seaweed HQ again this winter. He will be posting the date and details for that event sometime after the New Year.

That's all I have for now, enjoy the holidays and may the New Year bring you health, happiness and success in the garden.

**NEWS FROM EASTERN
ONTARIO
by Phil Hunt**

Well another season has come & gone with a few surprises along the way. There are a few growers that really stepped up to the plate this year. 1st, Congrats to Ron Wallace on an outstanding achievement by being the 1st to grow over the one ton mark. 2009#. Wow. I didn't think it would happen this year. We would also like to congratulate Carl Graham for his outstanding season. #1 in Canada for 2012. 1811#, just missing the Canadian record by 8#. Then there is Quinn Werner's new WR field pumpkin. What can I say about Quinn that hasn't been said before? Anyway, Congratulations on your new 209# WR field pumpkin. Speaking of field pumpkins, John Mackinnon crushed his Canadian record, but fell a few pounds short of Quinn's WR. Way to go John. I know you'll be gunning for Quinn's record next season. John Vincent

surprised everyone with his Canadian record setting cabbages. We look forward to hearing more from John about growing his winning cabbages. Finally, we would like to congratulate all the winners of the 2012 weigh off season & to all the growers who got a fruit to a weigh off. Anyway, all weigh off results are listed further back in the newsletter.

The 2012 season was an interesting & challenging season for many of our Eastern members to say the least. Some growers experienced great weather, timely rains, worked very hard & were well rewarded for their efforts. Many growers no matter how hard they worked had a mediocre season, with very hot temps & extremely dry weather. This caused many problems for most growers & as a result caused many to lose their prized pumpkins & other giants. According to some growers, cucumber beetles population was normal-high & SVB appeared in places that had been void of them in the past.

The 2012 weigh off season started off in Pembroke a week earlier than usual. This was to accommodate the Port Elgin weigh off who moved their date back to late Sept because of this year's early Thanksgiving weekend. Jim & Kelsey Bryson took top spot at 1456#. Todd Kline (1302#) & Harley Sproule (1233.5#) round out the top 3. Notables include Al Eaton (122.88" Long Gourd) & Brant &

Brandon Timm's 1356# Dmg pumpkin. (Exhibition).



Wellington Group Shot

The next weigh off in the Eastern Ontario region was PEC Pumpkinfest weigh off in Wellington. Newer growers Jim Reid & Tom Cavanagh battled veteran John Vincent for top spot, with Jim Reid coming out on top with his 1148#. Other notables were 4.19# tomato by Greg Montgomery, Chris Lyons 88.5# field pumpkin & the great showing by former junior growers Glen Huffman (1009.5#) & Shannon Langridge (1st squash 861# & her 1031# Pumpkin). In fact the rest of the Langridge family had a great showing as well. According to John Vincent, many new PBs were achieved by our PEC growers this year.

In Keene, John Vincent was the top dog with an 1127#er. Phil Joynson (007) was second (972#) & Tom Cavanagh rounded out the top 3. Local Grower Winner was Ben Loucks & Ken Burton had the prettiest pumpkin. Keene allows re-weighs, so the majority of these pumpkins have been weighed at previous events across the Province.

Jane & I, along with the rest of the executive of the GVGO & its members would like to personally thank all the weigh off officials & their volunteers for all their help & support in making this year's weigh off events very successful. Although Jane & I only attended 3 weigh offs this season, reports back from the growers are very positive. We look forward to working with all the local weigh off officials for next year's events.

It was good to see some of our local members are getting some very good results. Notables include new grower Jim Reid (winner at Wellington), Chris Delaney (Ont. record, Woodbridge winner), Jeff Warner (Port Elgin Sunday winner), the Langridge family (great showing at Wellington), John Vincent (Record setting cabbage) & of course the Jim & Kelsey Bryson (taking Pembroke & Port Elgin). We look forward to hearing more about all your seasons.

This will be the last "News from the Eastern Ontario Region" article from me. This info will be covered in the future by the Pat Watson. His article will cover all of Southern Ontario. I'd like to thank you all for your passed support. In the future, I will continue to bring interviews from the World's top growers & other interesting info to the GVGO newsletters.

Seeing that our article was missed in the last 2 newsletters, Jane & I wanted to reprint this.

"Jane & I were shocked & pleasantly surprised to be inducted into the GVGO Hall of Fame this past spring. We consider it to be a great honor to be included & acknowledged with growers like Al Eaton, Bill Greer, George Lloyd & the other GVGO inductees. We would like to thank Chris Lyons for nominating us & the GVGO executive for considering us worthy of such an award.

Growing giants & helping other growers reach their goals bring us great satisfaction. I now look back to the beginning of the GVGO & wonder how we ever got it to become the club it is today. It just showed what a big demand there was for a local club at the time. Ever since the loss of the Ottawa/St Lawrence club, Ontario growers were in need of a club to bring us all together & the GVGO fit the bill. We just want to thank the many people that worked with us to help us put it all together.

That is all for now from here in Cameron. We wish you all the best over the holiday season. See you at the seminars.

Jane & Phil

**NEWS FROM THE EAST
COAST
by Dawn Northrup**

Fall has arrived and it's that exciting time of year to watch the pumpkins finally hit the scales!

Growers from around the Province made their way to Neguac on September 23rd. Over 600 spectators came out on a beautiful sunny day to watch the event. There were 26 entries this year. Leo Lavoie won the Howard Dill award this year. Third place honours went to Laurent Mallet with a weight of 1098. Second place was secured by Martin Chiasson with a weight of 1193. First place went to Bill & I with a weight of 1251.

The AVGVG weigh off at Glad Gardens was held on September 29th. Third place went to Frank Ansems with a weight of 993 pounds. Second place went to Jeff Reid with a weight of 1007 pounds. First place went to Gerard Ansems tipping the scales with 1616 pounds.

The 28th annual pumpkin weigh off was held in Windsor, NS on October 6, 2012. Crowds came out to watch to see who the next Windsor Champ would be. There were 24 entries this year. The Howard Dill Award was presented to Leo Swinamer of New Ross, NS. I wanted to extend congratulations to Danny & Diana Dill who each

had a pumpkin over 1000 pounds this year. Danny's weighed 1108 pounds which is the new Hants County Record and Diana's weighed 1093 pounds. Bill & I came in third place with a weight of 1257. Jeff Reid came in second with a weight of 1292 and Gerard Ansems took first place tipping the scales at a whopping 1727 pounds!

The 19th annual pumpkin weigh off was held in PEI on October 6, 2012. Alan Aten placed first with his 1082.5 pound pumpkin, while his 19 year old son Charles took home second place with 1061 pounds.

Hundreds of people made their way to Millville a small town in Cape Breton on October 13th. They all wanted to see the "Mold Monster". There were 14 entries this year. There were 9 entries of field pumpkins. Congratulations to John MacKinnon for his field pumpkin with a weight of 181 pounds! In the giant pumpkins, third place went to Aiden Graham with a weight of 1124. Second place was secured by John MacKinnon with a weight of 1356.5 pounds. Crowds waited in high anticipation as it took over an hour to get the Mold Monster to the scale. Carl Graham of Donkin, NS took first place honours with an astonishing weight of 1811. Fourth place in the world!!! Congratulations Carl!

Now it's time to turn those pumpkins into boats. The 14th annual pumpkin regatta drew a

crowd this year with more than 50 entries. The winner was David Tilley of Halifax, NS.

Looking forward to another exciting year in 2013! Dawn

**NEWS FROM QUEBEC
by Claude Colbert**

The province of Quebec has registered several weather records during the 2012 growing season. Numbers of sunny days with high maximum temperature were observed from early May until late in September. On the other hand, precipitation was much lower than normal in most of the regions of Quebec. We also saw some severe hail storms and six tornadoes mainly in the southwest of the province. On June 8th, a tornado force F1 hit the city of Huntingdon, which is located near the city of Ormstown, hometown of growers Bryson and Sproule.



Gentilly Podium

Update from Gentilly club :
« Le Potirothon ».

The Potirothon of Gentilly is the oldest and the largest competition of giant pumpkins in the province of Quebec. Last spring, we registered 65 participating teams in the club. The official weigh off was held September 29th, 2012 in Gentilly. There were 36 pumpkins in the lineup at the weigh off. Claude Colbert smashed the record of the site with a beauty of 1630 pounds. For the first time, the average of the top ten has exceeded the 1000 pounds barrier to 1033.8 pounds.



1630 Colbert

Following the weigh off, a pumpkins regatta was held on the Becancour River on October 13th, 2012 to close the season activities. Twenty pumpkins were launched on the river for a 1 km race.



Potirothon - 2012

Top ten 2012 Gentily results

Rank	Weight	Grower name	Hometown
1	1630	Colbert, Claude	Sainte-Croix
2	1217	Riopel, Gérard	St-Roch de L'Achigan
3	1179	Les Quatrouillettes	Gentilly
4	1126	Morin, Mario	St-Georges-Est
5	1117	Robinson, Kristopher	Cookshire-Eaton
6	975	Riopel, Jocelyn	St-Roch de L'Achigan
7	896	Les Quatrouilles	Gentilly
8	761	Saffin, Jeff	Saint-François-du-Lac
9	723	Patrick Perreault	Gentilly
10	714	Girard, Martin	Saint-Nicéphore

Elsewhere in the province of Quebec

The only other giant pumpkin weigh off I know in Quebec is presented at Lennoxville in the city of Sherbrooke on Sunday following the Gentilly weigh off.

Organized in partnership with the giant pumpkin growers association and the firefighters of the city of Sherbrooke the festival of harvest and giant pumpkin is a family day that marks the arrival of autumn in a beautiful way.

For the rest, some Quebec growers will present their pumpkins in Ontario weigh off which are Pembroke, Port Elgin and Wellington. Not less than 14 giant pumpkins over 1000 pounds were grown in Quebec this year.

Congratulations to all growers, thanks to everyone who attended the activities and to all those who helped us in any way whatsoever during this season. Hoping the best for everyone, we look forward to see you again in a patch next year.

Weight	Grower Name	Hometown	Weigh off site	Place
1753.0	Bryson, Jim/Kelsey	Orms town	Port Elgin	1
1630.0	Colbert, Claude	Sainte-Croix	Gentilly	1
1522.0	Sproule, Harley	Orms town	Port Elgin	3
1456.0	Bryson, Jim/Kelsey	Orms town	Pembroke	1
1408.5	Kline, Todd	Shawville	Port Elgin	5
1302.0	Kline, Todd	Shawville	Pembroke	2
1233.5	Sproule, Harley	Orms town	Pembroke	3
1217.0	Riopel, Gerard	St-Roch-de-l'Achigan	Gentilly	2
1179.0	Quatrouillettes, Les	Gentilly	Gentilly	3
1126.0	Morin, Mario	Saint-Georges	Gentilly	4
1117.0	Robinson, Kristopher	Cookshire-Eaton	Gentilly	5
1101.5	Therrien, Louis-Claude	Luskville	Pembroke	6
1037.5	Rusenstrom, Mike	Bristol	Wellington	3
1030.5	Kline, Todd	Shawville	Wellington	5

WESTERN REPORT
by Don Crews

I write this after coming inside from shoveling snow. There is something about this that just doesn't seem quite right after having such a nice, long growing season. Most of the garden survived until the first hard killing frost in the first week of October. That was almost a full month more than usual. Then, something like 20 days later we receive 12" of snow.....that stayed! (note. Now we have a lot more!)

We had quite nice weather during summer through to September though it was very windy. I've eliminated most of the damage wind can bring by using greenhouses and large hoop houses. September was good, alternating between rain and warm sun. My plants used the sunshine to full advantage and continued good growth until the weigh off. I had a couple of AGs with poor early numbers that kept putting on weight late into the season, perhaps because of nice weather or maybe it was because I completely eliminated the use of fertilizer this year in an attempt to control both salt level and foliage growth. It certainly didn't hurt.

The weather was too nice for the field pumpkins. I found it almost impossible to keep the young fruit pollinated in late

July from splitting from the crazy growth curve they took. I was left with just the slower growing earlier pollinations.

The Smoky Lake weigh off was a well-attended event as always. There was lots more entries than last year, most likely because the weather was a bit more cooperative. I arrived at the weigh off to find that my biggest pumpkin wasn't the largest entry, even though it was the largest fruit ever that I had managed to get to a scale. Ray Beaudin had arrived before me and brought a fruit off his 917 that was just over 2 inches larger OTT. Both of our entries were capable of beating the site record by a considerable amount.

Field pumpkins went first and I narrowly beat John Kapelari's 109 lb fruit with my 115lb fruit from my 145 of last year.

I did pretty good in the watermelon category this year. My fruit on the 285 Edwards grew slow and steady throughout the season. I knew I might have something bigger than I thought when I needed help from my wife and kids to get it out of the hoop house. If I knew then what I know now, I would have left it in for another week. It was still good enough to set a new site record at 184lbs!

Alan Makarchuk survived a nearby tornado this summer and took first in the squash. He had to do quite a bit of patch rebuilding after the storm to get

back in the game but it payed off.

The pumpkin category was entered heavily this year and there were more than a couple of new faces that did very well. Jamie Filliol had his first entry with a 454 lb fruit that took 13 place while Brian Meyer took 7 place with 659 lb pumpkin. Newcomer Josh Gawryluk from Peace River showed with a 845 lb pumpkin. All those were good-sized fruits for our area. I had a good time talking with Josh and Jamie. They have been bitten by the bug pretty hard. I should also mention that it was good to see Chris Reckhand from Edmonton bring a fruit. He was hailed out, completely flat but hung in there to get a fruit to the weigh off.

When it came time to weigh the last 4, there was some crossed fingers. John Lobay's and John Kapelari's fruits were very close but John Kapelari weighed third last and got his first fruit over 1000lbs with 1008lbs off of my 1081 from last year!



1008 Kapelari on the scale

Finally it was my turn. I weighed second last and my fruit went a little light to the new chart at 1274.



1274 Crews on the scale

Still I was pleased because I had grown a personal best off my own seed, the 1081. I was pretty sure I was stuck with second when it weighed light but you never know. When Rays' pumpkin was weighed next, they covered the display like they had with mine. I could tell from a concerned look on the faces of the judges that it was close. When the scale settled, they removed the covers and Ray Beaudin had defeated me by a whole 1.5 lbs!



Ray Beaudin's 1275.5 being set on the scale at Smoky Lake.

Ray had remarked that he has considered cutting it off the week before! I 'd bet that he'll never think that again.

Here are the top results from the western Canadian weigh-offs

Great White North Pumpkin Fair and Weigh-off 2012 (Alberta)

Pumpkin

1	1,275.50	Ray Beaudin
2	1,274.00	Donald Crews
3	1,008.00	John Kapelari
4	986.00	John Lobay
5	845.00	Josh Gawryluk
6	713.50	Eddy Zaychkowsky
7	659.50	Brian Meyers
8	646.00	Debbie Kapelari
9	618.50	Alan Makarchuk
10	610.00	Archie Lingl

Squash

1	604.00	Alan Makarchuk
2	563.50	Jennifer Zaychkowsky
3	501.00	John Kapelari
4	447.50	Eddy Zaychkowsky
5	440.00	Ahytm Foley
6	438.00	Archie Lingl
7	357.00	Rosemare Foley
8	333.50	John Lobay
9	259.50	Mary Lobay
10	250.50	Alex Makarchuk

Field Pumpkin

1	115.00	Donald Crews
2	109.00	John Kapelari
3	101.00	Sidney Lobay
4	49.00	Eddy Zaychkowsky
5	46.00	Delores Buswell

Watermelon

1	184.00	Donald Crews
2	60.00	Mary Lobay
3	30.00	Sidney Lobay
4	17.00	Eddy Zaychkowsky

Long gourd

1	98.75	Kellen Melnyk
2	92.00	Cameron Melnyk
3	89.00	Jennifer Zaychkowsky
4	75.25	Eddy Zaychkowsky
5	38.00	Lynda Garden

Roland Pumpkin Fair Weigh-off (Manitoba)

1	1,242.50	Henry Banman
2	1,215.50	Marge Banman
3	1,052.50	Butch Bourbanis
4	1,007.50	Karen Bourbanis
5	828.50	Ray Winkler
6	799.00	Robert Tetrault
7	711.00	Bob Brasted
8	690.00	Crystal Banman
9	522.50	Cornie Banman
10	514.50	Dave Reimer

Aldor Acres Giant Pumpkin Weigh-off (British Columbia)

1	1,044.00	Chad Gilmore
2	1,037.00	Glenn Dixon
3	772.00	Nikki Gilmore
4	549.00	Andrea Dixon
5	203.00	Dave Chan
6	199.00	Sydney Dixon
7	194.00	Steve Perrault
8	183.00	Augustino Armelini
9	181.00	Chad Rattenbury
10	165.00	Charlotte Perrault

NEWS FROM EUROPE
By Brad Wursten

It's pretty much unique in the top 60 AGGC pumpkin list. Most people don't seem to have the guts to do it, but it paid off for Beni Meier of Switzerland. When picking the EGVGA seed-of-the-year this past spring, I met a bit of concern when I nominated the 934 Schieder, a seed from a young grower in Austria. The main concern was nobody was going to plant a seed from a pumpkin under 1000 lbs. But a few did. And it grew the new European record. And in the top 60 pumpkins this year, it is the smallest mother, and one of only two under 1000lbs. At 1694 lbs, Beni put quite a distance between himself and the old record of 1611 from a few years ago. But Beni's pumpkin was only the heaviest, not the largest.

Another young grower, this time Johannes Tanner of Germany, had a world record size pumpkin going in his patch. Looking back, there have only been three others with a better measurement. Ever. Taping 1982 pounds, fifteen percent light means 300 lbs. Still, at 1680 lbs, it is a new German record. Sure, there have been heavier ones in Germany before, but none that made it to the scales.

The more northern countries had a very poor year, but

central and south Europe did well with new country records being grown in Switzerland, Italy (1490lbs), Austria (1216lbs) and a surprising "fluke" in Finland (1578lbs). But it was mostly Belgium and Germany that dominated the pumpkin and squash scene this year.

Quite a few club, country, European and world records were broken by Europeans this year in the world of giant vegetables. Bo Persson of Sweden bashed the amaranth world record with his tallest measuring two inches over thirty feet. Peter Glazebrook of Great Britain was good for two world records again this year, to add to his ever growing collection. His new world record onion weighed in at 18.1 lbs, while his new world record long parsnip measured 220.7 inches, well over 18 ft.

Fabrice Boudyo of France weaseled his way past the old European tomato record, his weighing in at 5.16 lbs, just 0.04 lbs ahead of fellow countryman Mehdi Daho, who won the EGVGA grower-of-the-year award for the second time running. The big surprise was the new European long gourd record. When I broke the LG record last year at 122 inches, it was miles longer than anything that had ever been grown in Europe. But when I arrived at the Dutch Giant Vegetable Championship and saw what was already laying on the table, I knew I was beat. It was an immensely crooked specimen,

still very light green and obviously a ways from being mature. In a straight line it measured 130 inches, exactly. Good enough for a new ER and a second place in 2012, worldwide. But with the curve of around 12 inches and the fact that it was still growing, regardless of the horrible weather we had been having, there was no doubt this would have totally fried the competition if conditions had been better and more care had been taken to keep it straight. Let's just say Arnold Horde had no idea his LG was going to grow that long when he built his trellis. But my day was made when I heard it was grown off my 122" seed. And it proves that LGs can probably get a lot longer than 140 inches.



*The top 3 AGs in Europe.
From left to right: Jos Ghaye - 1553
lbs, Beni Meier - 1694 lbs, Johannes
Tanner - 1680 lbs.*

All in all, a pretty good pumpkin year for Europe. But other giant vegetable results were down as the countries where most of it is grown had a very challenging growing year. But the "real" growers have already started growing for 2013, hoping for things bigger and heavier.

Brad Wursten – Europe

The Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC) of your soil is a measure of its ability to hold and freely release various elements, compounds and nutrients. CEC is the measure of how many negatively charged sites are available in your soil. Giant Vegetable Growers concerned with increasing fruit size are keenly aware of the soil's ability to hold plant available nutrients that are in easily uptake-able forms.

Cations pronounced ``cat-eye-on`` can be either positive or negative.

- Positive (+) charges are called cations,
- Negative charges (-) are called anions, pronounced ann-eye-on.

The "ion" simply means a charged particle; a positive charge is attracted to a negative charge and vice-versa.

There are two types of positively charged cation particles. Acidic or acid-forming cations and basic or alkaline-forming cations.

Acidic Cations.

The Hydrogen cation H^+ and Aluminum cation Al^{+++} are acid-forming. Neither are plant nutrients. Soil with high levels of H^+ or Al^{+++} is an acid soil, with pH levels lower than 7.0

Alkaline Cations.

calcium (Ca^{2+}), magnesium (Mg^{2+}), potassium (K^+), sodium (Na^+) hydrogen (H^+), aluminum (Al^{3+}), iron (Fe^{2+}), manganese (Mn^{2+}), zinc (Zn^{2+}) and copper (Cu^{2+}).

Both types of cations either acidic or alkaline may be stored onto negative particles in the soils profile. They can also be freely exchanged or locked up and not exchangeable. All cation nutrients in the soil need to be held there somehow, or they can be washed away during irrigation or rainstorms events. Clay particles almost always have a negative (-) charge, so they attract and hold positively (+) charged nutrients and non-nutrients. Soil organic matter (SOM) has both positive and negative charges, so it can hold onto both cations and anions.

Freely exchangeable Clay, Peat Moss Humus, Humic and Fulvic acids have very good capacity release and hold onto nutrients well. The greater the CEC of the amendment the greater its nutrient holding capacity will be thus making nutrients more available to plants roots for easier uptake. Humic and Fulvic acids have the highest CEC levels.

The holders or non exchangeable compounds with anion`s such as Bi-Carbonates are a growers enemy as they caused soil deficiencies. They sequester or tie up important positive Cations like Ca & Mg.

Patches with an abundance of these problems often will have lower yield`s, poor fruit weights with Rib splits or BES issues. Bi-Carbonates tend to tie up the positively charged cation nutrients that growers are mainly concerned with.

Calcium, Magnesium, Potassium are hugely important in growing a giant vegetable. Treating such soils with Acidic Cations can break the bonds of Bi-carbonates and makes these nutrients freely exchangeable.

The Cation Exchange Capacity of your soil is like a box of cracker jacks: some soils contain a big prize (high CEC), some have no prize value (low CEC). Generally sandy soils with little organic matter will have lower CEC and clay soils with a lot of organic matter and humic acid will have a high CEC.

Ontario Growers strive to reach CEC levels of 20% or more and often rising above 30% as higher levels help making nutrients ready for easy uptake and aids in growing larger fruit. The need to treat soils with acid cations is well established as is the requirement to treat irrigation water sources. Water containing Bi-carbonates often referred to as hard water that easily forms whitish crusty compounds on the soil surface and around faucets is definitely not a grower`s friend and should be treated with acids to reduce nutrient tie up problems.

Helping you grow bigger fruit.

How I Grew my 112.2 lb Canadian Record Cabbage

By John Vincent

Even before I started growing giant veggies, I had identified that my soil grew excellent Cole crops. The first year we had this property, I planted a range of these including red and white cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower and brussels sprouts. They turned out excellent! At that time, I really wasn't sure why, but later I discovered that my high pH, clay soil is ideal for these crops. Later, as I started growing giant veggies, my giant Cole veggies flourished as well.



112.2 lb Canadian Record Cabbage at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto.

I started growing giant cabbage, at first growing the Northern Giant variety and later Cornish Giant. I felt that the Cornish giant had a larger denser head, where most of the weight was, making it the ideal variety for record weights. I remember having many discussions with good, large cabbage growers such as Harry Willemse and John Butler. Both gave me insight into feeding these monsters.

Each year as many growers do, I try to observe and learn from my last growing season and improve on my growing techniques for the next season. A few observations I made in the past was that the lower leaves tend to decay, especially where they remain wet and touch the ground. I also observed that when I harvested these giants, the ground was always powder dry underneath the canopy. I had heard growers talk about making feeding devices to direct water and plant food under the canopy, but other than directly pouring my liquids under the canopy, I had never tried any more aggressive methods.

For the 2012 season, I took inspiration from Phil Joynson's cabbage structure I saw on the 2011 patch tour. Phil built a platform designed to keep the lower leaves off the ground with air circulating beneath. This not only reduced the amount of decay of these lower leaves, but also allowed for easier placement of water and nutrient's under the canopy.



Racking system helps to keep leaves off the ground, makes it easier to water and feed, as well as makes it much easier to transport and reduce damage at harvest.

I've always had difficulty starting plants indoors

In the winter as I don't have a window with a good southern exposure. I was lucky enough to receive four plants from other growers at the GVGO seminar in April. Two were from Lonnie Bourne, and two were from Bryan Mailey. All Four plants were from the same seed source, Dave Thomas (Cornish Giant on the GVGO message board). Bryan's plants were started in early January and Lonnie's were started in mid-February. All four were very healthy and I transplanted up to 1.5 gal pots prior to setting out.

I constructed my platforms, 4ft square with 8" square holes in the center. They are covered with ½" square hardware cloth, and sit on 6" legs. I prepared the planting sites similar to my pumpkin sites with similar amendments. I created mounds peaked up to the holes in the platforms. The plants were then transplanted into these holes, so that the leaves would lay on top of the mesh. I used straw mulch around the structures, to help hold moisture and reduce weeds.

Each cabbage was fitted with its own feeding system consisting of a 5 gal pail mounted on a wooden stand. Each pail was fitted with a bulk head fitting, allowing a length of weeper hose to be attached. Under each Cabbage, I spiraled 25 feet of weeper hose. This makes about 3 good circles around each cabbage. The point of these is to allow for consistent even watering under the canopy of each cabbage.



Pail and weeper hose feeding system supplies water and nutrient's under the canopy

Consistent watering is the key to keep these cabbages growing as well as preventing splitting.

Overhead watering was done on the same schedule as the giant pumpkins, with additional water added under the canopy as needed to keep the soil constantly moist. One to two teaspoons of 20-20-20 water soluble fertilizer per plant was added to the pail water on a weekly basis. Although this is discouraged with other giant veggies, it does work well on cabbage as they don't colonize mycorrhiza.

The spray program was the same as the pumpkins. Pesticide/ foliar fertilizers were applied every 10 days with a power mist blower, which I believe is important for proper canopy penetration. Matador insecticide and a rotation of Nova and Headline fungicides were applied. Also (ACT) compost tea was applied through the overhead watering system on a weekly basis. Actinovate and Serenade Max biological fungicides were applied in a rotation with the compost tea, always applied 2-3 days after a chemical fungicide. My theory is to re-inoculate the plant with good microbes. Other foliar nutrients applied on a regular basis, included Cal-Carb, Neptune's seaweed and a couple applications of foliar manganese.

The Thanksgiving weekend I harvested my first cabbage of the season for exhibition at the Woodbridge Fall Fair. The cabbage weighed in at 99.0 lbs, setting a new Canadian record. I came home from Woodbridge fair and constructed a hoop house over my two remaining large cabbages, with a small heater inside. This ran at first only at night, but later in October 24/7 to maintain a warm consistent temperature .



*99.0 lb cabbage at Woodbridge Fall fair
October 6th, 2012*

The second cabbage was weighed at PEC Pumpkinfest in Wellington at 96.5 lbs. The third was weighed in at the Royal Winter fair at 112.2 lbs, setting another Canadian Record. The current World Record is held by Scott Robb in Alaska at 138.5 lbs. Be sure I have some great ideas for next year and have the WR in my sights!



Lithovit[®] has been a big part of our success for the past two seasons. 1678# Pumpkin, 7.33# Tomato, 222.4# Watermelon, 60# Cabbage & 106" Long Gourd. Does Lithovit work? You bet it does!! Used & recommended by Jane & Phil Hunt, Cameron, Ontario



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GROWER PROFILE
20 QUESTIONS
Featuring Chris Delaney

Family: Wife Jennifer, Alanna 6 and Kirsten 5

Town/City that you reside:
Pickering

1. How many years have you been growing and what or who got you growing?

2012 was my 3rd year growing competitively. In 2009 we were at the Home Depot and saw "Dills Atlantic Giant" seeds. It was mid-June and we decided to plant them in a 5x12' raised garden. Being obsessive, I turned to the internet for help at which time I discovered the GVGO. I also found a news article online about the Cornerstone weigh off. It mentioned Russ Landry. I wondered, "Was this the same Russ Landry I had been dealing with for months at my job???" Sure enough it was. So I would have daily phone calls with Russ. Five minutes of business followed by pumpkin talk. ☺

2. What is the largest pumpkin that you've grown and on which seed did you grow it on?

1684.5 Delaney, grown off the 1495 Stelts x 1818 Bryson.



3. Do you grow any other giant vegetables besides pumpkins and if so what are they?

We have grown giant tomatoes, cabbage, field pumpkin, water melon and long gourds.

4. What did you plant last year and what will you plant this season?

2011 Was a terrible year for me. I grew 4 plants @ 900 sq' and ended up with only one fruit. In 2012 I decided to grow smaller plants (700 sq') so I could grow 6 and increase my chances of getting one to the scale. I grew the 1725 Harp (BES), 1657 Bryson (BES), 1065 Delaney (mosaic virus), 1818 Bryson (mosaic virus, produced 843 Delaney), 1404 Bryson (produced 1381 Delaney) and 1495 Stelts (produced 1684.5 Delaney)

5. What do you plan to do differently next season?

Better weed control. More aggressive pest control.

6. Do you have any other hobbies other than giant vegetable growing?

I was a long time woodworker. "Was" bring the operative word here. Kids and pumpkin growing left little time for that.

7. What was your soil's PH & what % of organic matter was your patch at the start of the season? What type of soil do you have (sandy loam, clay loam, etc.) What are your Base Saturation numbers (K, Mg & Ca)?

My native soil is a silt loam but I have added a lot of sand. PH was 7.2 down from 7.8 in 2009. OM was 9.5. CEC 40.5. Base sat K @ 1.4, Mg @ 4.8 and Ca @ 88.9%.

8. Besides getting a Soil Report done, what do you think are the most important things a grower can do in the fall to prepare for the next season? How much organic material would you add to each plot?

In past years I went nuts in the fall. Adding lots of OM (mushroom compost) and lots of amendments. Last fall I put 0-0-60 down (20lbs/1000') and tilled. I did not add any manure as I had a problem with nitrogen burn in the 2011 season. Then, in January when there was about 4" of frost I subsoiled. Why January? That's when I got my subsoiler ☺.

9. What are the most important things a grower should do in the spring to prepare for the season ahead? What do you add to your soil in the spring to prepare for the season?

Also, do you grow in the same plots each year or do you have another patch that you can rotate back & forth? If so, how often would you rotate from one patch to another (every 2 or 3 years or every year)?

There is a great debate on tilling vs. not. I'm pro tilling. I till the hell out of my soil. I add 50lbs/1000' granular humic, 20lbs sulphur, 25lbs Kmag, 25 lbs. kelp and 25lbs Jersey green sand. I grow on the same plots every year. My property is only ½ acre and there is no space for alternative sites.

10. What date do you start your seeds, put your plants outside & what do you use for protection from weather & cold temps?

I started my seeds April 25th. They were planted 10-12 days after they are started. I start them in 4" pots and from there they go directly in the ground. As long as the first true leaf is a couple inches across, they are good to go. They get planted in a 5x8' hoop house and have a 1500 watt heater set to 80F. During the day, I prop the hoops open 8-10".

11. Were any fertilizers used in the 1st stage of the plants life (1st true leaf stage to just before pollination) & how were they applied?

I soak the planting mounds with about 5 gallons of fish mixture a couple days before planting. See Fert schedule for pre and post pollination fertilization.

12. Do you use Mycorrhizal Fungi on your plant's roots? If so, only on the stump area or do you use it at each leaf node as well?

I used 15 pounds per plant in 2012 ☺. 2 pounds into each planting mound. The rest used when burying vines. When I dig my trench ahead of vine growth, I generously pour myco into the trench. I also tried Mykes pure Myco this year. I used 2 lbs. It is the pure myco spores without the kitty litter binder. In late July I put all 2 lbs. in my water tank and applied by overhead sprinkler followed by a good watering to wash it into the soil.

13. What fertilizers do you use after the pumpkin is pollinated? How often and at what rates? How are they applied, through the soil or as a foliar application?

See following fertilizer schedule

14. How do you water your plants (by hand, sprinkler system, underground or misting system) & how much water per plant per day do you use when the pumpkin is at around 400#, 700# & 1000#?

Overhead impact sprinklers. June, July and Aug about 75 gallons per plant every second

day. On high transpiration days (high temps and high UV) I had an automatic misting cycle set up. From 10am to 3pm the plants would get one minute of watering every 45 minutes. This along with shade cloth eliminated burn. In late August as growth slowed I started to water more often. The last 2 weeks prior to harvest I was watering 75 gallons @ 6am and another 75 gallons @ 6pm.



15. How many SQ FT do you grow your plants? Do you bury all the main & secondary vines & at what lengths do you terminate the Main & Secondary vines? Do you allow all the secondary vines to grow or do you trim every second or third vine to allow for better airflow around the plant? What vine pattern do you prefer best?

My plants were 650-700 sq'. I bury all the vines and will uncover the main later on, only if I think there is a problem. My preferred pattern is the pitch fork pattern. This year I grew in a 30x25' plot. Secondary's would go 15' then get curved forward until they ran out of space. I have very little if any, plant ahead of the fruit.

16. Do you use a mulch at all to help suppress the weeds or do you weed the old fashion way, by hand & hoe? Any tips on weed control?

I am the worst guy to talk to about weeds. I have millions of them. I worked very hard this year to keep the weeds down ahead of the vine growth (via mechanical removal) but ultimately they won. I don't believe going between vines to pull weeds after the plant is established is good for the plants root system.

17. Could you give us some late season (month of September) advice to help our growers get the maximum growth from our pumpkins?

I have never had great September gains but my fruit tend to go heavy. I believe my watering pattern in September is one of the reasons they go heavy. When my growth slows down I start to hit the plants with everything I got. I increase watering and fertilization.

18. What were the most important factors that help you grow monster pumpkins each year?

We cannot be an expert in all areas of growing. There are things about this hobby I admittedly don't understand. Being part of a club such as the GVGO gave me access to people that are educated in areas that I am not. I asked a lot of dumb questions and more importantly, I listened. Growing

a monster is a team effort. From the time that Bryan Mailey first showed me how to bury a vine, to John Vincent's amendment recommendations. John Neiuwenhoff's product discoveries and Russ Landry's calcium theory's (that I still don't understand☺) and finally, Matt Debacco telling me at Niagara "As hard as it may be, do not add any manure this year!!!"..... There are too many people to mention here but working as a team has been the most important factor, for me anyway.

19. Is there any one piece of advice you would give to new growers?

Align yourself with a good mentor and ask a lot of questions. Read the forum archives until you are blue in the face. Get a fertilizer/water/pesticide schedule and stick to it. More is not always better as I discovered after 2 seasons of nitrogen damaged plants. Finally, work your ass off. Your hard work will be rewarded.



Top 10 Sufferings of the Giant Pumpkin Widow

by Sue Vincent

You know you're a pumpkin widow when:

1. You come home early from work one day to find a tri axle dump truck with a train delivering mushroom compost and sand to the pumpkin patch and he still tries to hide it!
2. For a hot date you actually do stake out and reconnaissance during the fall for bags of leaves, you are really only there to act as a witness.
3. You are missing blankets off your bed or out of the linen closet and you check the pumpkin patch first.
4. He keeps better track of the seed collection and remembers all seed genetics rather than your birthday.
5. Your electricity bill triples in the spring pumpkin season.
6. The only snail mail you get anymore consists of bubble packs of seeds.
7. Before growing giant pumpkins there were no bright colours in his wardrobe, now pumpkin orange has somehow becomes his favourite colour.
8. He goes away on business and calls daily to check on the pumpkins.
9. All vacations include pumpkin stuff... pumpkin cruise, pumpkin patch tours and pumpkin growers if they are not with us he is calling, texting and emailing his pumpkin buddies.
10. If you want to get his attention you mention pumpkins or bring out the orange lingerie!

April 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	2	3	1	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Seed Starting	26	27	28
29	30					






May 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 ½ BALE OF PROMIX BX RAKED INTO PLANTING	2 5 GALLON PAIL OF FISH APPLIED TO EACH PLANTING MOUND	3	4	5 SEEDLINGS GET PLANTED WITH 2LBS MICO
6 INSIDE HOOPS	7 HEATED TO 80F	8 AND ONLY WATERED	9 WHEN FLAGGING	10 ----- ----	11 ----- ----	12 ----- ----
13 ----- ----	14 ----- ----	15 ----- ----	16 ----- ----	17 ----- ----	18 ----- ----	19 ----- ----
20 ----- ----	21 ----- ----	22 ----- ----	23 ----- ----	24 ----- ----	25 ----- ----	26 ----- ----
27 ----- ----	28 ----- ----	29 ----- ----	30 ----- ----	31 ----- --→		
HA=HUMIC ACID	FA=FULVIC ACID	MS=MAPLE SYRUP				





June 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13  KELP, MS, TKO folier	14	15 FA, MS, HA folier	16 Calmag, MS folier
17 	18	19 Silgard, MS Folier EXIMO	20	21 	22	23 1495x1818 5 Lobe 
24 1404x1495 5 Lobe	25	26	27 TKO, KELP, MS 	28	29	30 Calmag, MS folier





July 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	2  MS	3 1404 D10 18" CC	4 NO FERTS----- -----	5 ----- -----	6 ----- -----	7 ----- -----
8 SILGARD	9  MS	10 NUTRI-K, O-O-30, MS	11 TKO-KELP-MS	12 CALMAG-MS	13 3-18-18 + MS	14 HA, FA, LITHOVIT, MS D20 1404 = 62" D21 1495 = 73"
15 SILGARD	16  MS	17 EXIMO NUTRI-K, O-O-30, MS	18 TKO-KELP-MS	19 CALMAG-MS	20 3-18-18 + MS	21 HA, FA, LITHOVIT, MS
22 SILGARD	23 D30 1495 352LBS  MS	24 D30 1404 299LBS NUTRI-K, O-O-30, MS	25 TKO-KELP-MS	26 CALMAG-MS	27 3-18-18 + MS	28 HA FA LITHOVIT MS
29 SILGARD	30  MS	31 NUTRI-K, O-O-30, MS				

August 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 TKO, KELP, MS APPLIED 2 LBS PURE MICO THRU	2 D40 1495 653 CALMAG + MS	3 D40 1404 588 3-18-18 + MS	4 HA-FA-LITHOVIT- MS
5 SILGARD-MS	6  MS	7 1495 814 LBS NUTRI-K, MS, 0-0- 30	8 1404 752 LBS TKO, KELP, MS	9 CALMAG + MS	10 3-18-18 + MS	11 HA-FA-LITHOVIT- MS
12 D50 1495 932 LBS SILGARD-MS 1725 HARP 1045 LBS	13 D50 1404 887LBS  MS	14 NUTRI-K, MS, 0-0- 30 EXIMO	15 TKO, KELP, MS	16 CALMAG + MS	17 3-18-18 + MS	18 HA-FA-LITHOVIT- MS
19 SILGARD-MS	20  MS	21 NUTRI-K, MS, 0-0- 30	22 TKO, KELP, MS	23 CALMAG + MS	24 3-18-18 + MS	25 HA-FA-LITHOVIT- MS
26 1495 1211 LBS SILGARD-MS 1404 1130 LBS	27  MS	28 NUTRI-K, MS, 0-0- 30	29 TKO, KELP, MS	30 CALMAG + MS	31 3-18-18 + MS	

September 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 1495 1295 LBS 1404 1156 LBS HA-FA-LITHOVIT-MS
2 SILGARD-MS	3 	4 NUTRI-K, MS, 0-0-30	5 TKO, KELP, MS	6 CALMAG + MS	7 3-18-18 + MS	8 HA-FA-LITHOVIT-MS
9 SILGARD-MS	10 	11 NUTRI-K, MS, 0-0-30 EXIMO	12 TKO, KELP, MS	13 CALMAG + MS	14 3-18-18 + MS	15 HA-FA-LITHOVIT-MS
16 1495 1433 LBS SILGARD-MS 1404 1276 LBS	17 	18 NUTRI-K, MS, 0-0-30	19 TKO, KELP, MS	20 CALMAG + MS	21 3-18-18 + MS	22 HA-FA-LITHOVIT-MS
23 SILGARD-MS	24 	25 NUTRI-K, MS, 0-0-30	26 TKO, KELP, MS	27 CALMAG + MS	28 3-18-18 + MS	29 HA-FA-LITHOVIT-MS
30						

**A LETTER FROM OUR
MEMBERS
The Uhlmeyer Family**



Anne & Abby with their 902.5# beauty

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hunt,

Thank you for sending my sister and I the 1080 Hunt seed. We had a lot of fun growing the pumpkin. The weather was very good in the Washington this past summer. We had a stretch of sunshine that was nearly 85 days long. The plant was a very strong grower. Originally we were going to grow a flag pattern but instead we let the secondary's grow across the lawn and bark. In all, the plant was about 600 square feet. But, the amazing thing was that the rooting zone was only about 250 square feet. According to my dad this means that we grew a big pumpkin from a really small space.

The best part about the season was driving the pumpkin down the interstate with people trying to snap pictures as we drove to the fair. The second best thing was winning the Junior Division Weigh-off at the Puyallup Fair. The disappointment for the season was when a rabbit bit off the flower stopping an earlier pollination. We were able to pollinate the pumpkin on July 3 and still grow a 902.5 pound pumpkin by the 7th of

September. We crossed the 1080 with my dad's 1495 Stelts.

Thank you again for sending us the seed. It is a winner.

Sincerely,
Anne (9) and Abby (8)
Uhlmeyer, Olympia,
Washington

**ANNOUNCEMENTS
The GVGO Executive**

**NEW *BIG MOMMA
GROWERS CONTEST***

The GVGO executive is proud to announce to its members a new contest for 2013 for all members to participate in and promote support and viability of the GVGO seed pack program in future years. The new contest will run as follows for 2013 and will replace the previously run Seed of the Year Contest.

Any Giant Pumpkin and Giant Squash seed donated to the GVGO for the annual member seed pack distribution is eligible for the contest. This is your chance to get your seed grown!

Any member of the GVGO in good standing for 2013 is eligible to enter a fruit but responsible to make sure their fruit info is entered once weighed. Fruit must sound and weighed on a legal digital scale.

Growers are responsible to report their own results to the GVGO if they think their pumpkin might qualify (via webpage or email) By December 31st 2013 to be entered into the contest.

Prize payouts are as follows

Pumpkin- 1st \$500, 2nd \$250, 3rd \$125

Squash- 1st \$300, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$75

Bonus incentive to seed suppliers

There will be a \$100 prize to the supplier of the winning seed in each category to help ensure the continued viability and high level expected of our members in our seed packs

A list of all pumpkin and squash seeds eligible will be posted on the website and in the February Newsletter to give time to growers who want to search out a seed if they don't receive it in their seed packs

We thank all growers who have supported the Seed of the Year contest in the past and we wish you all good luck and great growing in the new

**BIG MOMMA GROWERS
CONTEST!**

MASTER GROWER LEVELS

The GVGO Master Grower Levels are as follows and include

pumpkins- 1400 lbs
squash- 1150 lbs
long gourds- 120"
watermelons- 200 lbs
tomatoes- 4.5 lbs
cabbage- 60 lbs
corn- 275"
sunflower- 250"
giant field pumpkin – 120 lbs

To obtain Master Grower Status and be awarded the Master Grower Jacket you must reach or surpass 3 out of the 9 categories (Only Fruits and

Veggies weighed in Ontario are eligible for the Jacket Award (Starting in 2012 forward) Once a level is reached it will stand even if levels go up in the future

Growers that have obtained the Master Grower Jacket Award are as follows

John Butler
Art Johnston
Jane Hunt
Phil Hunt
Fred Hain
John Vincent – Newly Achieved in 2012 – Way to go Cabbage Man

Good growing to all

Dear: Valued GVGO Members

November 2012,

The GVGO prides itself on providing top quality products and services to our membership. Over the many years the GVGO has not raised the price of its memberships, but now rising costs are affecting the clubs' ability to fund its obligations with the demands of an expanding membership every year. Increases in domestic and international mailing rates have spiraled up in the last 2-3 years and sponsor revenue is very hard to source in these economic times. The club has not been spared from continuous cost increases. Also, revenue shortfalls continue to be challenging during fund raising events due to increase in the number of clubs and economic conditions.

Though the GVGO leadership always works very hard to control costs and increase revenues these issues have

ultimately compelled the directors to increase the price of our membership.

Effective January 1st, the price of all our valued memberships will rise by 5 dollars from existing price levels. We encourage all growers to take advantage of the old pricing by registering before Dec. 31st. Membership costs will remain at current levels until then. Our new Price List will take effect on January 1, 2013 and will be available on our website gvgo.ca. We now offer two easy means of payment in the usual PayPal method and now E-Bank transfers which is super easy as well for making your club payments (membership, raffle, auction etc) easy for the user.

We thank you all for all your continued support and hope that you'll join us for the 2013 season. We assure you shall continue to receive our best possible growing advice, just as in the past. From Newsletters to web site content, annual seed giveaways, seminars, patch tours, bulk purchasing and pertinent growing information we are confident in saying we are truly one of the best giant vegetable growers club in the world.

We thank all Growers everywhere for your support and look forward to helping you and the GVGO thrive in 2013 and beyond.

Sincerely, GVGO Directors

THE GVGO REMEMBERS
Ed Raflant
Out-of-Province Member
since 2007



Big Thanks to the GVGO

On Saturday, November 10, 2012, Ed Raflant of Stonewall Manitoba passed away. Ed started growing Atlantic Giants in the late 90's and was a GVGO member since 2007. Gardening was always Ed's passion. In the last 20 years of his life, it was his release, giving him time to himself when he wasn't caring for his wife who suffered a debilitating brain injury in 1992. Growing giant pumpkins became his passion outside of the home. When Ed contacted the GVGO in 2006, he connected with Phil and Jane Hunt. I would personally like to extend my gratitude to Phil who spent hours on the phone with Ed over the years talking about pumpkins and life in general. After their initial conversations, Ed went from growing 500-700 pounders to setting a Manitoba record with his 1134.5 in 2008 and his most successful year in 2010 where he grew 3 pumpkins (1121, 1054, and 724lbs). His granddaughters enjoyed their giant jack-o'-lanterns every Halloween. He will be missed.

Dan Marshall - stepson

Obituary from Winnipeg Free Press

It is with deep sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of Edward Skeeter Raflant passed away on November 10, 2012 at Seven Oaks Hospital. He will be greatly missed by his wife of 35 years, Donna, his stepsons Brad (Tanya) and Danny (Sheryle), his four grandchildren Hanna, Liam, Ellen and Laura, his sisters Shirley (Albert) and Doris and his many nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his parents Frank and Mary and his brother Roy (Kay). In compliance with Ed's wishes, a private service for the immediate family was held on November 15, 2012. Ed always went out of his way to help those in need. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Interlake Food Bank - Box 861, 293 Main St., Stonewall, Manitoba, R0C 2Z0

Just friends

I have been helping Ed since 2006, when he contacted me asking for help. In the past 6 years we spent many hours on the phone talking pumpkins. Everything from fertilizers, soil conditions & samples, to life in general were on the table. Ed didn't have a computer, so until he joined the GVGO he really couldn't keep up with all the news about growing unless he phoned other growers. Ed joined the GVGO in 2007 & in 2008 he shocked everyone at the Roland Weigh off with his record setting 1134.5# pumpkin. Over the years we became good friends. I'm sure happy I was able to help him reach his goals before his passing. Take care my friend & I'll see you in the patch on the other side.....Phil

CANADA'S LARGEST PUMPKIN FOR 2012 1811 Graham '12

The GVGO & its members would like to congratulate Carl Graham of Donkin, NS for 1811# monster pumpkin. What a great accomplishment it was to have grown this massive fruit. This is the largest pumpkin grown in Canada this year & #4 in the World for 2012. It's also only the 2nd pumpkin to ever weigh over 1800# in Canada. The bar has now been set pretty high for other East Coast growers shoot for.

Carl has been kind enough to answer a few questions about growing his 1811 for our membership. Thanks Carl, we really appreciate you sharing your season with us.....Phil Hunt Eastern Rep GVGO

(1) Fall Prep. Can you give us a brief description of your normal fall prep? Any tips for our members?

Normal fall prep for me is the addition of composted seaweed and manure. Lime if needed and if the weather permits I will try and get a crop of winter rye started.

(2) Can you tell us a bit about the greenhouse you used? Was the fruit grown inside all season or did you take the cover off for the hot summer months?

I built 2 greenhouses over the winter which are both 20ftx40ft. The frame work is pressure treated 2x6, the ribs are 3-10ft pvc glued together. The bracing and end walls are built from 2x4 and plywood.



Simple, but very stout. The pumpkin was grown inside all summer and the plastic was not removed until Oct 9. A combination of doors with fans on each end wall and a very windy location seemed to keep the temps inside at approx 85deg throughout the summer.

(3) Spring prep. Can you describe your spring prep of the soil?

Spring prep consists of chopped rye if I have it and more composted horse manure sprayed with molasses. My ph is tested again and lime will be applied if needed. Some soft rock phosphate and Epsom salts are also applied.

(4) Tilling. Some growers only till their gardens once per year, some 4 or 5 times. What are your thoughts on this & how many times do you till your patch throughout the year.

I don't like to use a tiller. I only use a tiller to chop the rye or oats and mix it into the top few inches of soil. This is when the fun starts. :) Out comes the pitch fork and every inch of soil is turned and loosened with the fork and this is only done once in an entire growing season.

(5) Cover Crops. Which do you use & when do you plant it?

Winter rye and oats are the only cover crop and green manure I have used.

(6) What date do you start your seeds in the spring?

My seed is started around April 23 every year.

(7) Questions often arise about pollination time and fruit set. Growers often have trouble with first sets and getting that right blossom in the sweet spot. Can you comment on any thoughts about techniques or procedure?

My 1811 was poll on June 27 this year but I will be aiming for around June 21 next growing season. As long as I'm out past approx 10ft with my poll and it looks like a keeper I'm happy with that. I have never had a problem with aborts and I believe in giving my plants nothing but water leading up to poll and I will continue to do so. I will not keep a female with deformed lobes or seeds in the lobes. I will remove it and hope the next one is formed nicely. I find waiting for the next one to open can become very stressful. Each miss is time and time is weight.

(8) What about plant size? How big are your plants at pollination time? What percent would this be compared to the final size of the plant?

My plants are approx 800sqft and I feel this size plant can support any size pumpkin. If most pumpkins are poll at approx 12-14ft I think the plants at that stage are relatively small. We only have approx 8 sets of sides at that time so the

plant should be around a couple of hundred sqft. If you are poll at 20ft then I suppose the plant will be much larger.

(9) With last year's warmer and hot sun, folks in Ontario began using shade cloth over the patches. Did you use shade cloth and if so, what was its sun blocking percentage? How long did you leave it on? If not was any other type of sun protection used on your plants?

No shade cloth here but the vine tips were shaded with bamboo sticks with tinfoil attached and moved throughout the afternoon depending on the location of the sun. The 1634Werner plant refused to burn even on the hottest days. The 1314 plant held up very well also with only a few leaves here and there receiving burn.

(10) Patch rotation; are you currently in a rotation program and can you comment on its cycle?

In 2011 I felt my soil needed rest so I planted nothing more than rye and oats throughout the summer. My pumpkin patch is approx 2500 sq ft so I do not have the room to rotate. My rotate schedule will consist of taking a summer break every couple of years as I feel my soil really needs to be replenished. If I do take a break...winter rye will be sprayed with molasses, whipper snipped and tilled into the top few inches. I will then add my horse manure and composted seaweed sprayed with molasses and again lightly tilled. I will then try to squeeze in 2 crops of oats which will also be whipper snipped, spray with molasses and tilled. My next goal is a nice thick crop of winter rye before the weather

gets too cold. When the manure and seaweed are incorporated early in the spring the weeds are choked out so they won't be a problem come next growing season.

(11) Can you tell us about your watering system? What system you like best & why?

My plants were overhead watered ever day at approx 1pm in full sun. As soon as I got home from work the watering began. I found my sprinkler to be harsh on the leaves at times so I will be shopping for an overhead system with a very fine mist for next growing season.

(12) On average, how much water do you give each plant per day during dry spells? Do you treat your water in any way? Ex. Adjust Ph, add fertilizers regularly, etc. What is your water source? Well, municipal tap water, creek or river water or rain water?

Once I lost the stump on the 1314 Sperry and realized that I had something very special going on the 1634 Werner I pretty much gave up watering the 1314. I removed the plastic from the greenhouse covering the 1314 and the only time it got watered was when it rained. It was now hammer time for the 1634Werner. 150gallons of municipal water mixed with molasses was pumped and sprayed over the entire 800 sq ft of plant daily. The pumpkin itself was always covered with a very large piece of plastic while watering as to keep her nice and dry. Nothing but fish and seaweed were added to water during the summer months. Sept I used some 13-0-44.

(13) Do you use mulch for weed suppression or do you weed by hand? Any tips on weed control?

I have used mulch in the past but had problems with mice. As the plant grows out I usually pull most weeds while I bury vines. Once the vines are terminated and the plant grown out to approx 800sqft I let the weeds go. I will not walk through a plant to remove weeds.

(14) Can you tell us what you used for pest & disease problems? Did you have any major problems with pests or disease?

I really didn't have any pest or disease problems this year. I foliar sprayed with fish, seaweed, molasses, Lithovit and homo milk was always added. I also sprayed potato dust, seven, and sulfur powder. These products were always rotated. I had no powdery mildew what so ever this year. Lucky I guess. :)

(15) Your season would be a dream season for anyone in this sport. We know that hard work, good soil & good luck is needed to have a great season, but what do you think were 2 of the most important things that helped you reach a new PB?

I feel the 2 most important things that contributed to my PB were weather and the 1634 Werner seed. Hot and dry summer was just what the Doctor ordered. 1634 Werner is the bomb...put some 1725 Harp and 1385 Jutras into that and get out of the way. :)))

RON WALLACE SMASHES THE WR WITH HIS INCREDIBLE 1-TON MONSTER PUMPKIN
By Phil Hunt

The GVGO & its members would like to congratulate Ron for not only breaking the WR, but for being the 1st grower to break through the 1 ton barrier. We would also like to thank him for taking the time to answer questions in detail from our members. His help is gratefully appreciated by us all.

Thanks again for all your help Ron. Take care & enjoy the off-season.

1 Fall Prep. Can you give us a brief description of your normal fall prep? Any tips for our members?

A: Normal fall prep for us would obviously be removing all vines and debris from the patch and getting a soil sample. Over the last few seasons we have not added much in the way of individual nutrients to the patch in the fall. We found that a vast majority of these nutrients would wash away during the winter and spring. I actually think this could lead to a "false" read on spring soil tests. In years past my spring tests would be high, but then when I tested in early July, I was left to wonder "where did all my nutrients go?" We do however add compost and/or manure in the fall and till everything in. We added yard-waste compost (mostly

leaves and grass clippings) made at our local landfill and pure chicken compost (chicken manure mixed with sawdust) in the fall of 2011. * Note: If you need to lower or raise pH, this is a good time of the year to do this. And if your patch is very low in potassium and you need to split/apply this nutrient, the fall is also a good time to amend.

2 Tilling. Some growers only till their gardens once per year, some 4 or 5 times. What are your thoughts on this & how many times do you till your patch throughout the year.

A: The Wallace's are "pro" tilling but with caution. We till our patches once in the fall and once in the spring after all amendments have been added. We never till a wet soil or over-till (going over the same areas more than once). We have a Kubota tractor with a rear tine tiller that does such a good job we only have to go over an area once.

3 Cover Crops. Which do you use & when do you plant it?

A: We actually only started with cover cropping a few years ago and we now find it a "key" part of our patch rotation. We could never get a fall cover crop to grow based on the timing and removal of all vines. So in 2012 we did a spring cover crop in March of winter rye at 7 pounds per 1,000 sq ft, mixed with 5 pounds per

1,000 sq ft of RTI's Mykos. At first we only tilled the area of our green houses (5x7). We continued to let the cover crop grow till May 27th! Now if we are preparing to rest a patch, we will cover crop it with 8 ounces per 1,000 sq ft of Pacific Gold Mustard. The high levels of Glucosinolates in mustard help manage soil-borne pathogens, this is known as bio-fumigation. We have sown mustard in the late spring and early fall. Before the mustard sets seeds, we will mow it and then till it under and water it to form a crust on the soil. This way no mustard gas will escape. Mustard has to be chopped to release the glucosinolates, and the presence of water will also create the natural gas. You must wait three weeks before you can plant on this area. Mustard is harmful to mycorrhizal fungi, so if you chose bio-fumigation, you will have to re-inoculate with a cover crop laced with Mykos.

4 What date do you start your seeds in the spring?

A: We started in 2012 on April 10th. This was two weeks earlier than our previous start dates.

5 Questions often arise about pollination time and fruit set. Growers often have trouble with first sets and getting that right blossom in the sweet spot. Can you comment on any thoughts about techniques or procedure?

A: We set a goal in 2012 to be pollinated between June 15-25th. Since our pumpkins continued to keep growing till harvest, we wanted to get everything out of the season. Yes, we have also had some troubles with the first pollinations, and I can't honestly tell you the reason why. I do know, that we used to pollinate early in the day (6 – 7 AM), and we now have changed that to 8 AM and we have found a higher success rate. I also remove flowers in the am and place them in my house for an hour or so. I have found that by doing it this way the male flowers will have more pollen available for pollinating. As for the "sweet spot" anything past 12 foot is "fair" game for us. Something that not many know is how close the 2009 actually came to being culled. (I had the knife in my hand.) I wanted the one a bit farther out and it was a longer shape, but it had seeds in the blossom. A call to Joe Jutras convinced me to keep the eventual 2009. The 2009 did not have a good angle and if you look closely at a photo of it, you can see a flat spot on the left side. The flat spot is actually where the pumpkin was laying on the ground! I had to keep moving it daily for a few weeks to get a better angle. We try to make our decisions immediately and set the structure of the plant to accommodate its eventual growth (swing the

main vine and remove a side or two).

6 What about plant size? How big are your plants at pollination time? What percent would this be compared to the final size of the plant?

A: Out total plant size is 840 sq ft. At pollination time our plants are about 50% full or slightly less.

7 Ron we know you spend a great deal of time in the off season on research. How important is this for you?

A: After each season I will go over what I thought worked and what I think needed improvement. I enjoy reading and winter gives me some spare time to read, research, and network. I try to find the latest trends in soil science and products to see if we can incorporate them into our program. This is an area where I think I excel.

8 After all your years of studying plant science and many years growing, has your appetite for information waned? Is there anything new and upcoming you are interested in perhaps growth hormones such as Forchlorfenuron and Gibberellic acid or anti desiccants like C02 sprays, supplements and or treatments? I mean from Mycorrhizal Fungi to Phosphites and subsoiling. You've been on the leading edge of growing technology for years. What is your secret at staying current with the ever

changing science of growing these monster pumpkins you have?

A: My hunger for information has always been a priority and one that continues to gain momentum to this day. I really think to grow pumpkins bigger than anyone else has ever grown, that you have to think “outside” the box and not be afraid to try new advances in soil/plant science. Having said that, I will dispel the rumor that we used Forchlorfenuron this past season. Gibberellic Acid, (Pap had been reading about this in the 80’s) Forchlorfenuron, and other plant growth regulators have been around for a long time and new formulations have made them easier to obtain and apply. I have read a few studies about the use of Forchlorfenuron on table grapes and the success they have had with “plumping” up sizes. (I need to educate myself more on this topic before I apply it to my plants.) Plant growth regulators are applied at flowering and when fruit is small to create cell division and elongation. I believe we accomplished this same thing this past season with our use of Borax (Boron). We elevated our calcium levels a bit (One of calcium’s benefits is cell elongation.), but we applied Boron every 10 days to make the calcium readily available. John Taberna from Western Labs told me the following: “Calcium is the truck, but

boron is the driver!” Anti-desiccants are used to prevent dehydration in plants (used extensively this time of the year on Christmas trees). I have thought about the possible benefits but am also concerned about the plant’s ability to respire (breath). During high humidity plants have difficulty breathing, this is a reason why I feel certain areas of the country have problems with foaming stumps. Having said that – other than a few foliar sprays of CalCarb from RTI, I have not applied any anti-desiccants. The best advice I can give with staying current is to continue to research and educate yourself on all topics related to plant and soil science.

9 With last year’s warmer and hot sun, folks in Ontario began using shade cloth over the patches. Did you use shade cloth and if so, what was its sun blocking percentage? How long did you leave it on? If not was any other type of sun protection used on your plants?

A: We do not use any sun protection over the plants other than white sheets and a tarp over the pumpkins. During extremely hot days, sprinklers keep the plants cool and hydrated.

10 Patch rotation, are you currently in a rotation program and can you comment on its cycle?

A: Great question! Take a look at most of the biggest

pumpkins ever grown, and a common denominator is that they were grown on soils that were new or have not been planted on for many years. Rotation and cover cropping will be the key for a grower’s continued success. After 2013 we will be set up on a rotation so that every year we will be on soil that has rested for a minimum of three years. I know most growers do not have the land to do this, so I would suggest a good disease program.

11 Can you tell us about your watering system? What method do you use & why? I’m considering changing from over-head to watering under the leaves. Can you give us any advice on which system you like best & why?

A: In 2010 I purchased an entire drip system, but the spring is a very busy time for me and when it became time to install it, I always found an excuse to not do it. Truthfully I have witnessed other local growers struggling with burying vines around it and it just seemed like I would become frustrated working with it. I do have plenty of water and pressure so watering with over-head sprinklers is very easy. About half of our watering is done by hand. Water is filled the day before in 300-gallon poly tanks and drenched onto the plants/soil from a submersible pump. We think the plants like the warm water and this system

makes it easy to add any nutrients, fertilizers, and fungicides. I am a very specific person, so knowing how much water and/or “product” goes on each 1,000 sq ft. is very important to me. We are automated with a timer that can cycle overhead water on/off up to five-times per day.

12 On average, how much water do you give each plant per day during dry spells? Do you treat your water in any way? Ex. Adjust Ph, add fertilizers regularly, etc. What is your water source? Well, municipal tap water, creek or river water or rain water?

A: In 2011 we had a new well dug for the pumpkins at 180 ft deep. This well was dug to “irrigation” standards, as I wanted plenty of water and a pump that could provide the pressure and volume that I needed. Each full plant (840 sq ft) receives 125 gallons of water three times a week (depending on rainfall). Our well water is high in Iron, so we know we have to add a bit of manganese to our fertilizer program to off-set this. As mentioned in the above question, during hot spells we will water a few times a day to help keep the plants cool. Once again the poly tanks and hand watering work very well for adding fertilizers and fungicides. And yes we have a weekly program for drenching specific nutrients/fungicides.

13 Do you use mulch for weed suppression or do you weed by hand? Any tips on weed control?

A: 2012 was our first season of applying Roundup under the plants and it worked great and saved lots of time. We applied 1.5 ounces of generic Roundup per gallon of water and applied with a pump sprayer. You must be careful not to get any on new growth as we did “toast” a few leaves. I know spray was getting on leaf stems but it did not hurt the plants. Just stay away from vine tips, leaves, and the pumpkin. I opted to weed the crown area by hand. I would suggest experimenting before applying to your competition plants. The spring cover cropping also helped to keep the first “wave” of weeds down.

14 Some of our members had their gardens invaded by SVB for the 1st time ever due to the hot summer & are in need of a good product to help control them. What products do you use for them? Do you use the SVB traps? If so, how well do they work for you?

A: For insect control we do monthly foliar sprays of Merit and weekly sprays from mid-June on with Warrior 2. Merit is a tremendous aphid killer, and since using Warrior we have not had any problems with SVB. We do not use SVB traps. I feel, like

mosquito magnets, they only attract them to your property.

15 Your season would be a dream season for anyone in this sport. We know that hard work, good soil & good luck is needed to have a great season, but what do you think were 2 of the most important things that helped you reach this incredible milestone?

A: I don’t think I could narrow our 2012 season down to the two most important “things.” I can say there was 23 years of research, development, and networking that went into the 2009. So having said that, I will try to list what I think was key:

Spring cover cropping

Adding nutrients later: In 2011 and 2012 we added all individual soil nutrients on May 27th. Normally they would have been added in mid-April. Our tissue tests indicated that down the “stretch” our plants were still being fed more than ample amounts of nutrients.

Dr. Bill Becker: Networking with “The Crop Doctor” has helped to balance my soil. (Cropdoctor@sbcglobal.net)

Starting seeds earlier: I have discussed this with Russ Landry before and we agreed that we were leaving pounds off the table by not pollinating earlier.

Boron: Addition of boron from before flowering until

mid- September, helping the calcium “highway” take place.

Great weather: Let’s not forget how important this is. 2012 treated us to a very warm spring and slightly above average highs during the season. During peak growth we averaged about 80-85 during the day and 65-70 degrees at night.

Newer patch: The patch where the 2009 was grown was only on its second year of planting (after a five-year rest). This patch also grew the 1872, 1623, 1647 and the Freak!



Ron Wallace and his 2009# WR

I would like to wish everyone the best of luck and a PB in 2013!

Ron Wallace

**QUINN WERNER SMASHES
THE WR WITH A 209# FIELD
PUMPKIN**
By Phil Hunt & Chris Lyons

The GVGO & its members would like to congratulate Quinn for not only breaking the WR, but for being the 1st grower to break through the 200# barrier for Field Pumpkins. We would also like to thank him for taking the time to answer these questions for our members. Your help is gratefully appreciated by all of us here at the GVGO.

Thanks again for all your help Quinn. All the best over the Holiday season.

Q 1) Quinn, you have a real knack for picking seeds. What was it about the 103 Mackinnon that made you decide to grow it in the first place?

A: I liked that the pollinator grew two pumpkin that were 162 LB, I figured that would only enhance the 103 and make it a better seed.

Q 2) What did you do to prepare the growing site for the 209 field pumpkin? Would this site prep be much the same as preparing an AG site?

A: I have two gardens, the garden I put the two field pumpkins in was in my lower garden that is down by a creek and it was in a area that gets flooded in a wet year so I haven't grown in that area for about five years. I gave up on that area and was using it as my regular lawn so I prepared it differently than my ag's, for the ag's I'm on a three year rotation and I use chicken manure so I'm

preparing them a year ahead. For the area for the field pumpkin's this spring I tilled the grass under added 40 LB of kelp meal for a 30 X 30 area 15 LB of humic a couple yards of mushroom compost.

Q 3) What type of soil do you grow on?

A: The lower garden is right next to a creek and it has a lot of silt in it unlike my upper garden were I grow most of my AG's and it's full of rocks

Q 4) How many sq. feet do you allow for each field pumpkin plant?

A: It was 15 X 30 per plant

Q 5) When did you germinate the seed and when did you set the plant out in the patch?

A: I'm going by memory on this one but I would say I started the seeds in side around the end of May and put them in the ground sometime around the second week of June.

Q 6) When transplanting in the spring, what do you add directly into the soil at each planting site? Mycor Fungi, humic acid, kelp, etc?

A: I added in the hole Mycor from RTI and I also used *Trichoderma*, and a couple weeks after that I threw some in a three foot area around the plant some more Mycor and *Trichoderma* and worked it in to the soil, and that was the last I added any more. The Ag's I add the mycor and trycaderma under each leaf on the first half of the plant then I stop.

Q 7) Do you prune and train the plant in a growing pattern (Christmas tree, spider, etc) like an AG plant or did you allow the vines to run where they want to go?

A: On my ag's I use more of a spider pattern for the vines, the field pumpkins I used a Christmas tree pattern with the side vies 7.5 feet long and dead headed.

Q 8) Did you bury the vines? If so did you add anything at this time such as mycor fungi at the root nodes?

A: Yes I buried all the vines except the main vine just like the AG's

Q 9) What was the date you pollinated the 209 pumpkin? Was it grown on the main or a side vine and how far out was it from the main root? How many sq ft was the plant at pollination time?

A: pollinated on 8/6 and it was on a side vine about 12 feet out from the main, and the plant was approximately 350 to 375 sq feet.

Q 10) Did you terminate the side or main vines and when did you do this?

A: All side vines were terminated at 7.5 feet and the main was left to grow and was never terminated.

Q 11) During the course of the season did you have a specific feeding program and watering schedule for the field pumpkins and how did it change during the course of the growing season?

A: My ag's are watered through drip, my plan was to hand water the field pumpkins once the pumpkins were set, that plane didn't work so well. before the 209 was set I had earlier pollinations that were growing real well and I got busy with the ag's and didn't water the field pumpkins because they were in the wet spot in the garden and they were growing so well I figured they were fine even though it was very hot and we were getting no rain. I checked the soil one day and it was bone dry so I hand watered that night and decided that took too much time and there was no way I would have the time to do it. I remembered I had some over head sprinkler heads and I set one up in the middle of the field pumpkins and turned it on every two to three days. The earlier set on the 103 that was on the main vine muttered early and started to stop growing around 23 days old ether do to not enough water or too much heat.

Q 12) Did you keep track of the 209's growth and for how long the fruit was actually growing? Did it keep growing at all after it started to ripen? What was the final OTT of the 209?

A: The other field pumpkins started off like rockets and grew like crazy to start but the 209 was real slow, I thought it didn't take, it didn't grow much to about 12 days old and then started to put on 9 LB a day for over a week and slowly tapered off. At day 64 it was still growing 1 LB a day. The final OTT was 212.5".

Q 13) Field pumpkins are notorious for blossom end splits (BES). Do you know of any precautions that might reduce the risk of BES?

A: I don't have the answer on the BES for field pumpkins, this was my first year growing them.

Q 14) Field pumpkin plants are very susceptible to powdery mildew. Were you able to prevent or control this disease and what did you use?

A: I use Nova on my ag's for PM it's same thing as Eagle, just stronger so you use a smaller amount, I was very surprised the field pumpkins got no PM even with using over head watering and my ag's got a little PM and I was using drip and spraying them both at the same rate with the Nova.

Q 15) We all know that field pumpkins will lose weight once they are cut off the vine. Do you have any idea if they can lose weight after they stop growing but are still on the vine?

A: My plan was to weigh the field pumpkin when they stopped growing and keep on weighing them every four or five days to see if they lost weight on the vine, but after I split the 184 that was on the 81 wolf I was afraid to lift the pumpkins. I didn't know that field pumpkins had a blossom end split problem, I was just so happy I didn't have to worry about the problems I have with the stumps like I do with the ag's.

Q 16) What do you think are 2 of the most important things that really helped in growing the 209?

A: I think it helped that I decided to grow the field pumpkins just like the ag's and you need a later set unlike the AG's. The field pumpkin will mature at 25 to 30 days or earlier if it's hot, it helps if you make your sets at the end of July or early august when it starts to cool down. I had a hot summer but once we got to the end of August it started to cool down and September got real cool and that helped the 209 to keep on growing even after 60 days old.



I want to thank John MacKinnon for giving me the 103 to grow. He was one of the few people that were a lot of help when I had questions.

Quinn.



UPDATE

With the 2012 growing season wrapped up, Team Lunatic is busy preparing for the 3rd annual Seed Auction to support the GPC sanctioned Woodbridge Fair Weigh-off on Thanksgiving weekend. We would like to thank all of the seed donators and bidders who have supported our auctions in the past two years and are looking forward to another successful event in 2013. This years live auction will be held in the Big Pumpkins Chat Room on Friday February 15th at 8:00 pm.

The Lunatics continue to have success at the scales with a new Ontario Record set in the Giant Pumpkin class by Chris Delaney at 1684 lbs!! An outstanding achievement as the bar continues to be raised. Chris grew his monster on the 1495 Stelts and crossed it with the 1818 Bryson. The pumpkin was weighed at Port Elgin Pumkinfest and was an astounding 18% heavy!! As the season wrapped up, and all the weights were in from the GPC sites, Chris finished in the top 15 in the world for 2012.

Another Lunatic member had huge success this year with a new Canadian Record set in the Giant Cabbage class. At the Woodbridge Fair Weigh-off John Vincent set a new record at 99 lbs, but John let us all know he thought he had a bigger one still growing. Sure enough he did as he set the record again later in the season at the Royal Winter Fair. John set the new Canadian Record by weighing his cabbage at 112.2 lbs, and has proven he is the grower to beat when it comes to the Giant Cabbage class!!

The GPC sanctioned Woodbridge Fair Weigh-off continues to grow with growers bringing giants from all across Ontario, and even as far as New York. We are going to be working hard this year to bring the growers an even bigger and better event in 2013. We would like to thank everyone involved in growing this Weigh-off, and look forward to seeing you all on Saturday October 12th in Woodbridge!!

Team Lunatic

BLAST FROM THE PAST

By Kirk Chenier

The following pictures are excerpts from newsletters of the past and Photos that were given to the GVGO from the Byward market weigh off and Farmer Gus's files from the great newsletters the Ottawa St Lawrence club sent out in days gone by. They are chalk full of interesting information and great shots from past growers and many that still attend weigh offs, our goal in this new column is to let all of our current members get a glimpse of these articles and pictures. If you have any great articles, newsletters or anything of interest that you think would fit well within this column please forward to Kirk Chenier. I have thoroughly enjoyed looking through all the old photos and articles and in the future we will have pictures of George Lloyd's pumpkin that went to Japan, Summaries from the Byward Market Weigh Off and grower interviews that reveal just how much is still done that was cutting edge back in the day.

This editions pictures include the brochure from the Port Elgin Weigh off in 1992, exactly 20 years ago and you can see by the weights listed things have come a long way and the prize money is now ten times what it was back then. Also included are pictures of growers many of you know in their younger years but their attitudes have not changed. I hope you enjoy looking over these.



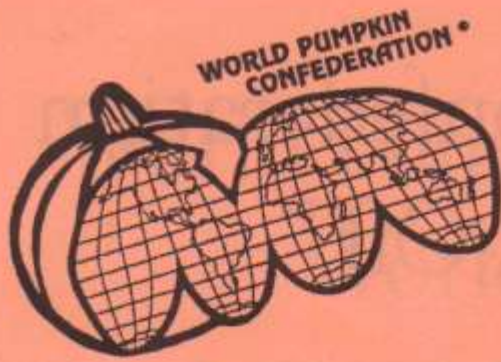
Todd Kline - Always Smiling



Seed Sorting at Farmer Gus's Home



Farmer Gus's Plants in 1991



PUMPKINFEST '92

a competition to seek

THE WORLD'S LARGEST
PUMPKIN, SQUASH and WATERMELON

to be held in

PORT ELGIN, ONTARIO
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1992



PORT ELGIN
PROMOTION COMMITTEE

sponsored by:

&



World Pumpkin Confederation World Weigh-Off™

1991 WORLD RESULTS

Class	Name	Registered	State	Country	Weight LBS.	Weight KGS
Pumpkin						
1st	Ray Waterman & Ayo O.	Collins	New York	U.S.A.	780.5	354.0
2nd	Karen Fisher	Collins	New York	U.S.A.	742.0	336.6
3rd	Milton H. Barber	Delanson	New York	U.S.A.	730.5	331.4
Squash						
1st	Alan Nesbitt	Conesus	New York	U.S.A.	733.0	332.5
2nd	Will Neily	Middleton	Nova Scotia	Canada	629.5	---
3rd	Norm Craven	Sunderland	Ontario	Canada	611.0	---
Watermelon						
1st	Ivan & Lloyd Bright	Hope	Arizona	U.S.A.	229.5	---
2nd	Waddell Estep	Donaldson	Arizona	U.S.A.	215.5	---
3rd	Tony Kudrna	Center Point	Indiana	U.S.A.	188.5	---

CANADIAN RESULTS

Class:

Pumpkin	Kevin Leitch, London, Ontario	Third in Canada
Watermelon	Doug Court, Port Elgin, Ontario	Third in Canada
Squash	Norm Craven, Sunderland, Ontario	Second in Canada



Port Elgin and District Chamber of Commerce

Maple Square Mall
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Port Elgin, Ontario N0H 2C4

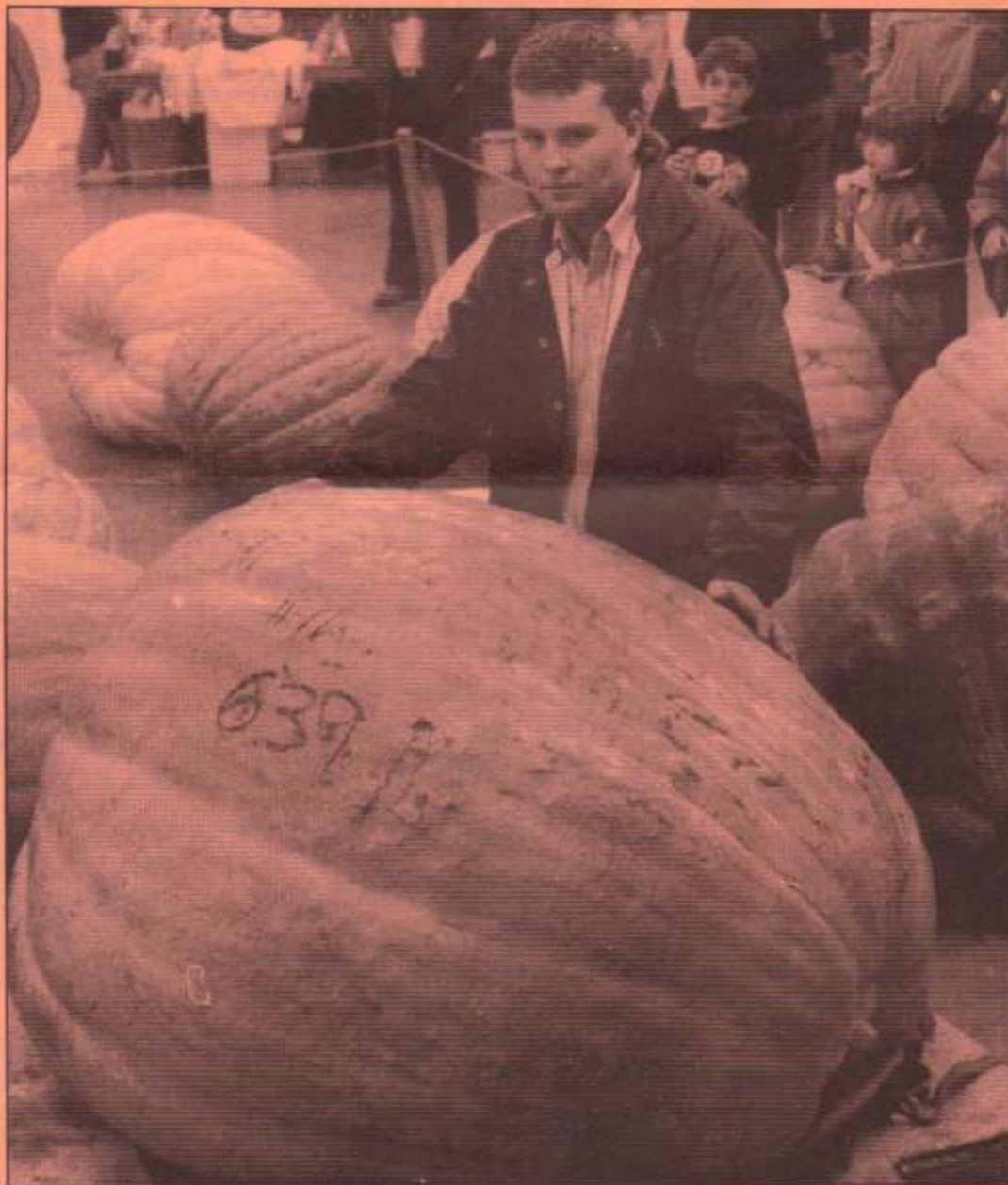
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Fax: 519-389-4735
Toll Free: 1-800-387-3456

1st
PRIZE
in
PORT ELGIN

PUMPKIN – 639 lbs.
10th IN THE WORLD

It was Kevin Leitch's first attempt at growing the big one – and won! Kevin is from London, Ontario.

(photo compliments of The Beacon Times)





**1st
PRIZE**
in
PORT ELGIN

WATERMELON – 77 lbs.

3RD LARGEST IN CANADA

Doug Court, the Grandfather of Pumpkinfest in Port Elgin.

(photo compliments of Shoreline News)

**1st
PRIZE**
in
PORT ELGIN

SQUASH – 611 lbs.

3RD IN THE WORLD

Norm Craven, of RR 2, Sunderland, had good reason to smile – his 611 lb. squash was the third largest in the world.

(photo compliments of The Beacon Times)



ONTARIO WEIGH OFF RESULTS – 2012

Port Elgin Pumpkinfest – Saturday

Pumpkins

Jim & Kelsey Bryson	1753
Chris Delaney	1684.5
Harley Sproule	1522
Joel Jarvis	1464.5
Todd Kline	1408.5
Ron Wray	1216.5
Doris Wray	1152
Jeff Werner	1113
John Dyck/Norm Ireland	1095.5
Jane & Phil Hunt	1076.5
John Matesa	1067.5
Dave Pitura	1033.5
Stephen Blanchard	990
Peter Burdon	942
Terry Chappelle	928
Gregg Montgomery	897
Bob & Elaine MacKenzie	865.5
Art Johnston/John Butler	858
Rob McKee	857
Andre Marion	815.5
John Ewanchuk	811
Dave Locke	790
The Deane Family	750.5
David McCallum	584.5
Nathan & Jennifer Veitch	486
David Grigg	373.5

Squash

John Vincent	993
Joel Jarvis	949
Bob & Elaine MacKenzie	905.5
Doug Court	791
Mike & Cindy Demars	699
Braeden Ashton	597

Watermelon

Marvin Mitchell	207
William & Joanne Donkers	189
Bryan Mailey	178.5
Travis Thompson	166.5
Nathan & Jennifer Veitch	145
Virginia Pool	129
Todd Kline	124.5
Bob & Elaine MacKenzie	92.5

Cabbage

Jane & Phil Hunt	65
John Matesa	56.5
Dennis Hartung	53.5
Dave Pitura	46.5
Art Johnston/John Butler	19
Joel Jarvis	16

Cornstalk

Art Johnston/John Butler	260
Bryan Mailey	228

Sunflower

Marvin Mitchell	262
Jeff Warner	254.5
Art Johnston/John Butler	222
Nathan & Jennifer Veitch	197.5

Tomato

Art Johnston/John Butler	5.5
Chris Lyons	4.12
Jane & Phil Hunt	3.79
Dennis Hartung	3.78
John Vincent	3.72
Mike & Cindy Demars	3.2
Bryan Mailey	3.08
John Matesa	3.03
Justin & Kelly Twelves	3.0
Marvin Mitchell	2.93
John Twelves	2.5

Long Gourd

Marvin Mitchell	120
Todd Kline	120
Chris Delaney	114
Bryan Mailey	113.5
Phil Joynson	111
Joel Jarvis	109
Nathan & Jennifer Veitch	107
Dennis Hartung	106.25
Art Johnston/John Butler	101
Chris Lyons	98.75

Field Pumpkin

Nathan & Jennifer Veitch	101
Doug Court	95.5
Chris Lyons	94
John Twelves	71.5
Art Johnston/John Butler	71.5
Bob & Elaine MacKenzie	61.5
Dennis Hartung	60.5
Jane & Phil Hunt	59

Port Elgin Pumpkinfest – Sunday

Pumpkins

Jeff Warner	1347
Bob & Elaine MacKenzie	990.5
Brian McDiarmid	981
Peter Mathonia	973
Terry Chappelle	938
Ben Loucks	926
The Watson Family	883.5
Braeden Ashton	819.5
Bryce McDiarmid	817.5
John Nieuwenhoff	808
Alex McKay	787.5
Dave McCallum	629.5
Ralph Giffen	555
Louise Court	505
Lonnie Bourne	476
M.J. Marshall	383

Squash

Bob & Elaine MacKenzie	837.5
Tamri Ashton	804
Doug Court	753
Braeden Ashton	671
Louise Court	590.5
Ralph Giffen	374

Watermelon

Marvin Mitchell	187
Doug Court	176.5
Bryan Mailey	167
Bob & Elaine MacKenzie	153
Louise Court	81

Cabbage

Bob & Elaine MacKenzie	40
Doug Court	36.5
Tamri Ashton	28
Louise Court	23.5
Marvin Mitchell	22
Dave McCallum	17.2

Cornstalk

Marvin Mitchell	183
Doug Court	182.5
Courtney Ashton	163.5
Madison Ashton	161
M.J. Marshall	144

Sunflower

Marvin Mitchell	244.5
Jeff Warner	237.5
John Nieuwenhoff	190
Clayton Beitz	172

Tomato

Doug Court	3.58
Braeden Ashton	3.39
Louise Court	3.29
John & Julia Twelves	3.05
Tamri Ashton	2.94
Marvin Mitchell	2.68
Bob & Elaine MacKenzie	2.7

Long Gourd

John Nieuwenhoff	112
Marvin Mitchell	110.25
Doug Court	107
Courtney Ashton	97.5
Louise Court	93
Tamri Ashton	90.5
Dave McCallum	87

Sunflower Face

Marvin Mitchell	22
Courtney Ashton	18
Madison Ashton	17
Braeden Ashton	16

Field Pumpkin

John & Julia Twelves	96.5
Doug Court	88.5
Bob & Elaine MacKenzie	82.5
Courtney Ashton	70
Louise Court	67

Murillo PumpkinFest Results - 2012

Junior Heaviest Pumpkin

Kallen Foresta	684 lbs.
Kayler Foresta	458 lbs.
James Valley	312 lbs.
Alexis Foresta	281 lbs.
Brandi Shedden	209 lbs.

Heaviest Giant pumpkin (adults)

Don Cronk	1411 lb
(New Northwestern Ontario Record)	
Ben Johnson	1187 lbs.
Cliff McLean	1142 lbs.
Tim Spivak	1053-
Susan McLean	924 lbs.
Brad McLean	840 lbs.
Robert Spivak	757 lbs.
Don Cronk	742 lbs.
Don Cronk	741 lbs.
Lesley Johnson	695 lbs.



1411 Cronk – New Northwestern Ontario Record

Rookie grower- Kyle Foekens

Ugliest pumpkin- Paul Colosimo

Most Attractive Pumpkin over 500 lbs. –
Lesley Johnson

Best decorated pumpkin- Arianna McLean

Heaviest Tomato- 1.49 lbs- Kallen Foresta

Tallest Sunflower 210 inches- Jeanie Abrunzo

Longest Gourd 91 inches-Gary Klages

Heaviest Field Pumpkin 17 lbs- Matthew Wyant

Heaviest Squash

Gary Klages	368 lbs.
Lorne Vaillant	332 lbs.

Hugli's Blueberry Ranch – Pembroke, ON

Pumpkins

Jim & Kelsey Bryson	1456
Todd Kline	1302
Harley Sproule	1233.5
Brant & Brandon Timm	1163.5
Ryan Hoelke	1146.5
Louis-Claude Therrien	1101.5
Phil Joynson	988
Mike Rusenstrom	935
Glen Huffman	845.5
Dave Locke	736.7
James Reid	662.5
Brant & Brandon Timm (EXH)	1356

Squash

Brant & Brandon Timm	713
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Watermelon

Todd Kline	53.5
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Long Gourd

Al Eaton	122.88
Todd Kline	117.25
Cathy Craig	110.75

Field Pumpkin

Wil Hugli	81
Heidi Hugli	70.5

Corn

Brant & Brandon Timm	158
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Tomato

Brant & Brandon Timm	3.45
Glen Huffman	2.75
Brant & Brandon Timm (EXH)	3.43



Prince Edward County Pumpkinfest – Wellington, ON

Pumpkin

Jim Reid	1148
John Vincent	1133
Mike Rusenstrom	1037.5
Shannon Langridge	1031.5
Todd Kline	1030.5
Glen Huffman	1009.5
Tom Cavanagh	959
Greg Montgomery	939.5
Gerry Cavanagh	918
Sarah Langridge	927
Dave Deane	820
Annette Langridge	764
John Matesa	732
Dan Langridge	700.5
Nathan Carter	558
Matt Kerby	271
Chris Lyons (EXH, DMG)	1092
Jim Reid (EXH)	558

Squash

Shannon Langridge	861
Kirk Chenier	711
Annette Langridge	518.5
Sarah Langridge	483.5
Dan Langridge	465
Phil & Jane Hunt	446

Watermelon

Phil & Jane Hunt	150
John Matesa	144
Chris Bell	66
Kirk Chenier	48

Long Gourd

Todd Kline	114.5
Paul Verkerk	111.75
Chris Lyons	106.13
Phil Joynson	94.25

Tomato

Greg Montgomery	4.19
John Vincent	3.78
John Matesa	3.72
Phil Joynson	3.34
Chris Lyons	3.28
Phil & Jane Hunt	3.13
Glen Huffman	1.23

Field Pumpkin

Chris Lyons	88.5
Phil & Jane Hunt	80
Dan Langridge	57
Shannon Langridge	56.5
Sarah Langridge	54.5
Annette Langridge	54
Jim & Kelsey Bryson (DMG/EXH)	102

Cabbage

John Vincent	96.5
Jane & Phil Hunt	66.5
Sarah Langridge	58.5
John Matesa	51
Kirk Chenier	43.5
Chris Lyons	38.5

Sunflowers

Shannon Langridge	169
Glen Huffman	167.75
Jim Huffman	159
Lee Moore	149
Dan Langridge	148
Annette Langridge	147.25
Sarah Langridge	146.5



Prince Edward County 4-H Club

Woodbridge Fair

Pumpkin

Chris Delaney	1381
John Matesa	1313
Eric Sundin	1114
Nathan & Jennifer Veitch	1086
Jason Alldred	1026
Margaret Sundin	1009
Gerry Cavanagh	937
Greg Montgomery	864
Joel Jarvis	860

David McCallum	858
Frank Catapano	817
Terry Chappelle	807
Art Johnston/John Butler	803
Chris Lyons	800
Peter Bourden	778
Fred Hain	740
Luke Melnyk	396

Squash

Jason Alldred	1077
Joel Jarvis	609
Paul Schweigert	576

Long Gourd

Chris Delaney	115.25
Bryan Mailey	115
Eric Sundin	113.5
Nathan & Jennifer Veitch	106.88
Joel Jarvis	106
Fred Hain	90.25
Dave McCallum	80.5

Tomato

Art Johnston/John Butler	4.39
Eric Sundin	3.85
Margaret Sundin	3.60
Art Johnston/John Butler	3.55
Jane & Phil Hunt	3.55
John Matesa	3.50
Dorothy Hain	3.35
Chris Lyons	3.07
John Vincent	3.03
Bryan Mailey	2.57
Joel Jarvis	2.12
Nathan & Jennifer Veitch	1.89

Watermelon

Chris Delaney	177
Bryan Mailey	143
Jane & Phil Hunt	115
Eric Sundin	108
Nathan & Jennifer Veitch	87

Field Pumpkin

Chris Lyons	91
Art Johnston/John Butler	78
Nathan & Jennifer Veitch	68
Art Johnston/John Butler (EXH)	60
Jane & Phil Hunt	59

Erin Fall Fair

Pumpkin

John Nieuwenhoff	1386
Richard Nieuwenhoff	976
Darren Skiva	715
Ken Leslie	682
Conrad Wheildon	609
Mike Black	493
Grace Black	463
Mike Armstrong	393
Larissa Nieuwenhoff	352
Dave Meek	352
Arlene Wheildon	340
(Erin con't)	
Blyth Meek	289
Eleanor	241
Mike Reid	182
Devin Hollier	175
Allison Cleave	158
Amanda Reid	153
Ruth Meek	DMG

Keene Pumpkin Festival

Pumpkin

John Vincent	1127
Phil Joynson	972
Tom Cavanagh	951
Gerry Cavanagh	921
Ben Loucks	906
Dana Shay	823
David Locke	771
Kirk Chenier	700
Jason & David Nelson	376
Karl Allen	295
Joel Stillman	210
Ken Burton	150

Royal Winter Agricultural Fair

Cabbage

John Vincent	112
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Long Gourd

Bryan Mailey	8' 10
Chris Lyons	8' 8.5
Joanne Borcsok	4' 8

Pumpkin and Squash

Joel Jarvis	1414.6
John Vincent	1112.4
Glen Huffman	996.2
Shannon Langridge	853.2
Chris Lyons	782.2

Field Pumpkins--The Growing Hobby by Alan Eaton

The GPC FP category has shown an amazing growth in the last few years and I predict that will not end any time soon. By simply using the GPC official FP lists on BP.com we can see the growth as follows:

2012 - 247 FPs, 2011 – 177 FPs, 2010 – 109 FPs, 2009 – 84 FPs, 2008 – none listed

The next big question is, where do these FPs come from? I'll answer this by showing the best mothers and grand parents of 2012 and also by showing the original varieties.

Best mothers - I made pedigrees for the 32 official FPs down to the 110 pound level and then found the four "repeat" mothers as follows:

81 Wolf 09 –	88 Leland 06 x 145 McInnis 07	11 FPs, ave. wt. = 129 lbs
150 Razo 11 –	142 McInnis 10 x 154 Orr 09	4 “ “ = 130 lbs
162 MacKinnon 11 –	81 Wolf 09 x 145 MacInnis 07	4 “ “ = 131 lbs
103 MacKinnon 11 –	145 McInnis 07 x 81 Wolf 09	2 “ “ = 173 lbs

These four mothers accounted for 21 of the top 32 FPs, the other 11 had "single" mothers and are not included in this study.

Repeat Grand Parents – looking at the mother's parents, I find there are five FPs that account for 52 of the 64 grand parents. They are the 145 McInnis 07, 88 Leland 06, 81 Wolf 09, 142 McInnis 10 and 154 Orr 09.

Now if we look at the background of the Leland, McInnis and Orr FPs, then we will know where most of the 2012 FP gene pool originated.

88 Leland 06 - Phat Jack 142 and 145 McInnis – Gold Rush and Howden

154 Orr 09 – McInnis, Conestoga Special, Fat or Phat Albert

This is the information given to me directly or indirectly by the growers but I would welcome any additions or corrections. When I look these varieties up on the internet I find that the seed companies give weights from 20 to over 50 pounds. Yet now Quinn Werner has the world record at 209 pounds and the top five in the GPC average 170 pounds.

Overall the whole story is fascinating:

- in three years the # of FPs has tripled from 84 to 247
- growers have quickly focused in on a few of the best gene lines and seeds
- plants producing 20-50 pound fruit have evolved to the 200 pound level

In summary, an amazing success story and one that will be exciting to watch with each new season.

Al Eaton Nov, 2012 Art. 2

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Liquid Fulvic Acid	1-4-10 & 20L	\$13.90	1 litre \$11.56
Dry Soluble Humic Acid	.5 kg – 20.7 kg	\$14.05	½ kg \$11.69
Dry Soluble Humic Acid	.5 kg – 22.7 kg	\$26.95	1 kg \$22.42
Mini-Granule Humic Acid	50 lb Bag	\$20.50	\$17.06 bag

For a complete list please contact Rick Milliken @ mknr@mts.net or 204-880-0884.
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Pay Pal is accepted.



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The best mother AGs of 2012 by Alan Eaton

As we likely all saw in the video from Topsfield, Ron Wallace is the man of the year, and then some; even growing #2 in the world, which also broke the world record. Ron's accomplishment of 2009 lbs is something that we will never forget. Now most everybody will want to get their hands on a "1725 Harp 09" seed but that will not be possible. What then are some other possibilities for good seed to use in 2013?

Well, I think we can make good use of the GPC list on bigpumpkins.com. Using the top 50 official pumpkins and making 4 generation pedigrees tells me that these 50 cover the top levels of the AG gene pool quite well. Of these, 39 were grown in the USA, 6 in Canada and 1 each in Switzerland, Germany, New Zealand, Finland and Belgium.

The following shows how I picked the top 15 seeds behind these 50 top AGs of 2012:

1. I found that 8 seeds were "repeat mothers", with up to 5 offspring and I gave them 1 point for each, ie. 1725 Harp 09 -5 AGs=5 points and 1303 Sweet 09-2 AGs=2-points.
2. To these 8 seeds I added the "single mothers" of the next 7 heaviest AGs. This provided 15 seeds that produced 32 of the top 50.
3. Next I used the average weight of each seed's offspring to assign points, ie. over 1800 lbs -4 pts, 1700-3 pts, 1600-2 pts and 1500 -1 pt.. Then adding the points from the two ratings I got a total for each of the 15 seeds, as follows:

Seed	Points	Grown	Seed	Points	Grown
1789 Wallace 11(dmg)	6	RI	1495 Stelts 10	6	PA
1140 Finders 11	5	SC	1596 Werner 10	5	PA
1807 Stelts 11	4	PA	1381 Checkon 10	5	PA
1494 Bordson 11	4	CA	1634 Werner 10	5	PA
1647 Wallace 11(dmg)	3	RI	1554 Rose 10	3	OH
1382 Bryson 11(dmg)	3	QC			
935 Schieder 11	3	Austria	1725 Harp 09	8	OH
			1622 Young 09	4	IA
			1303 Sweet 09	3	MI

This evaluation doesn't consider such things as colour, shape and wall thickness. It uses only the GPC official weight and that is what the competitions are about.

Generally **we don't know** how many seeds were in each mother, how generous the grower was with distribution, germination rates, failure rates in the garden etc. For these and many more reasons top seed choices involve luck and often, big surprises.

What **we do know** is shown above. In the years 2009-2011 there were nearly 1200 GPC AGs over 1000 pounds and of these, 15 have proved to be outstanding. Just think about that!

Al Eaton Nov, 2012 AG-1



gvgo.ca

GVGO 2012 Tomato Seed Pack A

Giant Vegetable Growers of Ontario

25 A Packs - Best of GVGO Giant Tomato Seed Packs \$55.00* each

Shipping Included, US or Can Funds.



- A 1. 5.50 Johnston/Butler 12 > 5.58 Timm x self. 5/pkg.
- A 2. 4.39 Johnston/Butler 12 > 5.58 Timm x self. 5/pkg.
- A 3. 4.20 Lyons 12 > 4.25 Lyons x self. 6/pkg.
- A 4. 4.06 Johnston/Butler 12 > 5.32 Lyons x self. 5/pkg.
- A 5. 4.00 Johnston/Butler 12 > 7.33 Hunt x self. 5/pkg.
- A 6. 3.86 Huffman 12 > 3.55 Watson x self. 6/pkg.
- A 7. 3.85 Hain 12 > 4.42 Landry 11 x self.
- A 8. 3.72 Vincent 12 > 7.33 Hunt. X open.
- A 9. 3.60 Sundin 12 >
- A 10. 3.50 Matesa 12 > 6.5 Miesner. 6/pkg.
- A 11. 3.47 Johnston/Butler 12 > 7.33 Hunt x self. 5/pkg.
- A 12. 3.20 DeMars 12 > Big Zac x self. 5/pkg.
- A 13. 2.88 Johnston/Butler 12 > 3.91 Timm x self. 5/pkg.

3 easy pay options: Payment by. PayPal, gvgogrowers@gmail.com

New* Bank payment method > direct email transfer to gvgogrowers@gmail.com

or Mail payment by cheque to **Giant Vegetable Growers of Ontario**

C/o Jane Hunt, Treasurer, 4376 Hwy 35 N. Cameron, ON, Canada. K0M 1G0.

Please Visit gvgo.ca for order information and details.



gvgo.ca

GVGO 2012 Tomato Seed Pack B

Giant Vegetable Growers of Ontario

25 B Packs - Best of GVGO **Giant Tomato** Seed Packs \$55.00* each

Shipping Included, US or Can Funds.



- B 1. 4.90 Nieuwenhoff 12 > 4.62 Timm x self. 3/pkg.
- B 2. 4.51 Vincent 12 > 7.33 Hunt x open.
- B 3. 4.32 Hunt 12 > 7.33 Hunt x open. 4/pkg.
- B 4. 4.19 Montgomery 12 > 5.07 Boudyo x open. 6/pkg.
- B 5. 4.04 Johnston/Butler 12 > 7.33 Hunt x self. 5/pkg.
- B 6. 3.88 Vincent 12 > 7.33 Hunt x open.
- B 7. 3.85 Sundin 12 >
- B 8. 3.78 Vincent 12 > 4.91 Lyons 11 x open.
- B 9. 3.72 Matesa 12 > 5.41 Landry 11 x open.
- B 10. 3.53 Montgomery 12 > 3.72 Watson. 6/pkg.
- B 11. 3.48 Johnston/Butler 12 > 7.33 Hunt x self. 5/pkg.
- B 12. 3.34 Joynson 12 > 4.77 Timm x self.
- B 13. 3.08 Mailey 12 > 3.85 Landry 12 x self.

3 easy pay options: Payment by: PayPal, gvgogrowers@gmail.com

New* Bank payment method > direct email transfer to gvgogrowers@gmail.com

or Mail payment by cheque to **Giant Vegetable Growers of Ontario**

C/o Jane Hunt, Treasurer, 4376 Hwy 35 N. Cameron, ON, Canada. K0M 1G0.

Please Visit gvgo.ca for order information and details.



PECPG SEED SALE 2012/2013

The Prince Edward County Pumpkin Growers, home of the World Record 1818 Bryson, are pleased to bring you their 2012 seed sale offer. This is our main fundraiser for the year. All proceeds go directly to fund the Wellington Weigh Off. This is a great package offering, along with proven and promising seeds offered individually. Please visit the seed sale page on our web site:

<http://www.pec.on.ca/pumpkinfest/>

Click on Seed Sale!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

The “Old Style” GVGO Proven Seed Raffle

This year we've gone back to the “old style” GVGO proven seed raffle. With one ticket drawn for each seed your chances of winning a great, line-up changing seed is better than ever. Below is only a partial list of the seeds that are up for grabs as new seeds are being added as they come in. Most of the proven seeds have grown Pumpkins over 1200 pounds or Squash over 1000 pounds. We've also added a few, as yet, unproven monster seeds and a few new HOT ones as well. This list will be updated on the GVGO website on a regular basis. Money raised from this raffle will go towards Club Awards, Grower's Seminar, Patch Tour and other Club Activities.

985 Werner 06	1185 Kline 09	1662.5 Stelts 09	500 Northrup 04	1587.5 Werner 11	1016 Deltas 01
1843 Geddes 12	1663 Zoellner 10	1502 Wallace 06	1290 Poirier 07	1807.5 Stelts 11	1378.5 Pitura 07
1843 Geddes 12	1236* Vincent / McGill 09	1556.5 Werner 07	1618 Bryson 10	1663 Liggett 09	
1662.5 Stelts 09	1425 Revier 09	1382 Bryson 11	1156 Hunt 08	1524.5 Werner 11	
1426 Wolf 10	1470 Wallace 07	1264 Kline 09	1330.5 Johnston/Butler 09	1657.6 Bryson 11	
905 Wallace 10	1343.5 Lyons 08	1185 Kline 09	1401.5 Privitera 09	993 Vincent/McGill 08	
1401 Wallace 10	1554 Rose 10	1689 Jutras 07	1507 Jutras 08	1611 Daho 09	
1055.5* Pitura 06	1662.5 Stelts 09	1579 Revier 09	993.2 Vincent/McGill 08	1661 Jutras 11	
905* Vincent/McGill 09	1468.5 Stevens 10	1544.5 Revier 09	1303 Sweet 09	1704 Urena 11	
1382 Bryson 11	1185 Kline 09	1180 Deltas 03	1002* Jarvis 10	1569.5 Gronski 09	
1650 Sproule 11	1674 Marsh 10	1254 Urena 08	1618.2 Bryson 10	1587.5 Werner 11	
1618 Bryson 10	1110 Wallace 06	1294.5 Revier	1818.5 Bryson 11	1581 Ghaye 11	
1246* Vincent 11	1421 Boyce 11	1236 Harp 09	1330.5 Johnston/Butler 09	1097.5 Beachy 02	
1556.5 Werner 07	1536.5 Van Kooten 08	1650 Sproule 11	1240 Bogie 09	582 Hester 01 x2	
848* MacKenzie 04	1037.5* Jarvis 11	1002* Jarvis 10	1674 Marsh 10	1142 Van Kooten	
1404 Bryson 10	1180.5 Pukos	1568 Connolly 08	1242 Ellenbecker 09	1446.5 Werner 06	

TICKETS ARE \$5 each, 5 for \$20, or 15 for \$50

Raffle will run until Jan 15th with draw to be held Jan 20th by the Peel 4-H Giant Pumpkin Club.

Please include your name and complete address when ordering tickets.

Please send payment to;

GVGO c/o Jane Hunt

4376 Hwy 35 N

Cameron, Ontario, CANADA K0M 1G0

PayPal is NOT allowed for raffle tickets but if you do online banking, we do accept E-Transfer of funds. Send

E-Transfers to ;

gvgogrowers@gmail.com (the club uses TD Bank if asked) and don't forget to send a separate email with the answer to your security question. THANK-YOU for your support and GOOD LUCK.



15th Annual Convention

March 8th-10th, 2013

**Americana Conference Resort & Spa
in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada**

Join us this year for another edition of the "Niagara Convention"!

At Niagara, you can:

- See Ron Wallace receive his Orange Jacket for his NEW WORLD RECORD 2009 pound pumpkin
- Learn growing techniques and ask questions of the Heavy Hitters (confirmed speakers to date are Ron Wallace and Matt Debacco with more to be announced in the new year)
- Meet up with your friends from the giant vegetable growing community for a weekend filled with fun and networking
- New this Year! Your choice of conference package! See attached information for further details.

Register before February 8th, 2013 by contacting Pumpkinfest Headquarters

Phone: 1-800-387-3456 or 519-389-3714 Fax: 519-389-3725

Email: laceyboyd@bmts.com or heatherlorenz@saugeenshores.ca

Mail: Port Elgin Pumpkinfest, 559 Goderich Street, Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C4

PLEASE NOTE: *you must register for the convention with Pumpkinfest Headquarters as well as call the hotel to book your room 1-800-263-3508*

To donate seeds or door prizes to the Niagara Convention for use in auctions, raffles and fundraising sales, please contact Lacey or Heather at Pumpkinfest Headquarters. The International Giant Vegetable Growers' Convention is organized by Port Elgin Pumpkinfest. For all inquiries or for information on how to become a sponsor please contact Lacey Boyd at Pumpkinfest Headquarters laceyboyd@bmts.com or heatherlorenz@saugeenshores.ca



15th Annual International Giant Pumpkin Growers Seminar

March 8th to 10th 2013

at the Americana Conference Resort & Spa

NEW THIS YEAR –

SEVERAL DIFFERENT MEETING PACKAGE OPTIONS!!!!

Package A: Your complete meeting package includes - \$195 per person:

Hospitality & Networking – Friday & Saturday evening (\$3 beer, wine & spirits)

Breakfast – Saturday & Sunday Morning

Lunch – Saturday Afternoon

Dinner – Saturday evening

Daily Continuous Coffee Breaks outfitted with an assortment of refreshments and nourishing snacks

All Seminars and Handouts

Souvenir Tee-shirt

High-speed Wireless Internet Access

Free Parking

Package B: Saturday Full Day Package, package includes- \$170.00 per person:

Hospitality & Networking – Friday & Saturday evening (\$3 beer, wine & spirits)

Breakfast – Saturday Morning

Lunch – Saturday Afternoon

Dinner – Saturday evening

Daily Continuous Coffee Breaks outfitted with an assortment of refreshments and nourishing snacks

All Seminars and Handouts

Souvenir Tee-shirt

High-speed Wireless Internet Access

Free Parking

Package C: Saturday Day Package, package includes- \$125.00 per person:

Hospitality & Networking – Friday & Saturday evening (\$3 beer, wine & spirits)

Breakfast – Saturday Morning

Lunch – Saturday Afternoon

Daily Continuous Coffee Breaks outfitted with an assortment of refreshments and nourishing snacks

All Seminars and Handouts

Souvenir Tee-shirt

High-speed Wireless Internet Access

Free Parking

Package D: Saturday ½ Day Package, package includes- \$110.00 per person:

Hospitality & Networking – Friday & Saturday evening (\$3 beer, wine & spirits)

Lunch – Saturday Afternoon

Daily Continuous Coffee Breaks outfitted with an assortment of refreshments and nourishing snacks

All Seminars and Handouts

Souvenir Tee-shirt

High-speed Wireless Internet Access

Free Parking

Package E: Seminar Only Package, package includes- \$60.00 per person:

Daily Continuous Coffee Breaks outfitted with an assortment of refreshments and nourishing snacks

All Seminars and Handouts

Souvenir Tee-shirt

High-speed Wireless Internet Access

Free Parking

Please fill in the Registration form and Mail back to:

Port Elgin Pumpkinfest 559 Goderich St. Port Elgin, ON. N0H 2C4

Or Fax it to: Attention Pumpkinfest Staff -Heather & Lacey- 1-519-389-3725 and then call us with your credit card information 1-800-387-3456.

We look forward to seeing you all there!!





Registration Form for the 15th Annual International Giant Pumpkin Growers Seminar

Delegate Name: _____ Tee-shirt size _____

Delegate #2 Name: _____ Tee-shirt size _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Prov/State: _____ Postal/Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Package Choice (A, B, C, D, E): _____ x Package Price: \$ _____ x # of People _____

Total Owing: \$ _____ (Please note all package pricing is in Canadian funds)

Payment Options: (please circle correct payment option)

Cash

Cheque

Credit Card

PayPal – please send payment to
shunt@brucetelecom.com

Visa/MasterCard Number _____ Expiry Date _____

Printed Name on Card _____

Notes:

- Payments can be mailed to 559 Goderich Street, Port Elgin, ON Canada N0H 2C4 or call 1-800-387-3456 if you have any questions or wish to pay with your credit card
- Payments made to “International Giant Vegetable Growers Convention” – prices are in CAN funds
- We will be accepting donations of prizes from any club or grower who wishes to contribute. Contact Heather for more information or to donate heatherlorenz@saugeenshores.ca. Please also contact Lacey laceyboyd@bmts.com if you wish to donate seeds or to have information included in the registration package.
- All monies raised at the convention are used to stage the convention.

Please call the Americana Conference Resort and Spa Reservations Department at 1-800-263-3508 to book your accommodations. Please quote the following group name: Giant Vegetable Growers Association. All rooms will be held until Friday, February 8, 2013.

Rates: \$149 per room, per night based on Single or Double Occupancy – no waterpark access

\$169 per room, per night, based on Single or Double Occupancy – includes waterpark access

Please note guest room rate(s) are subject to all applicable taxes (13% HST & 3% DMF).